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THE TIMES

No. 64,670

MONDAY JUNE 14 1993

45p

Somalis denounce UN after 20 civilians die

FROM SAM KILEY IN MOGADISHU

THE United Nations' reputation suffered a devastating blow yesterday when Pakistani peacekeepers fired automatic weapons and a heavy machinegun into a Somali crowd, leaving at least 20 dead and another 50 wounded. It was the second time in two days that Pakistani troops had killed unarmed civilians — many of them women and children — and the UN was promptly denounced as a "killing force, not a peacekeeping force".

In yesterday's incident in Mogadishu, soldiers of the Punjabi regiment opened fire on a crowd of between three and five thousand people protesting about American air strikes in which nine Somalis were said to have died. One of the air attacks hit an ammunition store next door to the home of the warlord General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, who last night urged President Clinton to "stop killing the Somali people".

Some witnesses claimed yesterday that the UN troops had started shooting without warning, although others said there had been "one or two reports" from buildings near by. A Canadian journalist said: "These people were running, they were densely packed. I do not recall hearing a shot before the Pakistanis opened fire. They fired hundreds of rounds."

Brigadier Iqbal al-Hasan, the head of the Pakistani UN contingent in the city, insisted, however, that his men had been fired upon before shooting warning shots in the air and then turning their guns on the mass. The brigadier, who last night launched an investigation into the killings, denied that his troops had been out to avenge the deaths of 23 of their colleagues a week ago. "My soldiers are not at all retaliating," he said. "They have continued to exercise restraint in a very tense and charged atmosphere."

The commander of the company involved thought his men had received a few incoming rounds before they opened fire. "I fired about 40 rounds. Work it out. Twenty into the air and twenty into the crowd," the major, still shaking and sweating heavily ten minutes after the shootings, said.

In Islamabad, officials denied that anyone had died. "It is baseless. Pakistanis have not killed anybody," a military spokesman said, while a foreign ministry official said the troops had returned fire after being attacked, injuring four Somalis. He said the reports from Mogadishu were inaccurate and misleading and could incite Somalis against the peacekeeping force, to which Pakistan has contributed 4,700 troops.

But in the Somali capital, hospitals were choked with wounded and their hysterical



Anger and sorrow as Somali women carry away a victim of the demonstration outside UN headquarters in Mogadishu yesterday

relatives as pick-up trucks and battered minibuses brought the victims in for treatment. Many screamed in agony because of a shortage of anaesthetics.

In Benadir hospital, four bodies lay at the bottom of a stairwell. One, a boy of about five, had been covered with an empty carton that had brought milk from overseas to save Somali children from starvation. None of the four had been involved in the demonstration; they had been driving past the area when the shooting broke out.

Another four bodies — including those of a boy of about

13 and two women — lay outside the Digfir hospital. Dr Muhammad Farrah Aden complained: "When the US forces arrived here, we were waving branches. Now we are waving blood." He held a piece of shrapnel he had taken from a man injured in Sunday's air strike and said: "We want the outside world to send us food, not death. How will death help us reach democracy?"

On Saturday, a man and a woman were shot in the back by Pakistani soldiers who opened fire on a crowd chanting anti-American and anti-UN slogans, and yesterday, leaflets printed in English and

Somali appeared on the streets accusing the UN peacekeeping force of being a killing force. "We appeal to the international community to intervene to stop the massacre of unarmed people," they said. Later, as news spread of the latest killings and the attack on the garage next to General Aidid's home, foreigners were subjected to abuse and death threats. Those who attempted to get close to the general's house were turned away by youths waving rifles and shouting insults.

President Clinton had said on Saturday night that UN military action was intended to send a clear warning to armed gangs against provoking terror and chaos. But General Aidid retorted yesterday: "Clinton and his forces are showing the world that they are any strong. Nobody can solve by force any problem. Any problem needs discussion and dialogue."

General Aidid, interviewed by America's CBS television, said he had been at home when the American AC-130 gunships attacked the garage a few yards away on Saturday night. "I was in my room. Just a few things happened," he said. Asked if he had a message for Mr Clinton, he

said: "Stop killing the Somali people because killing will not solve anything."

There was no immediate response from the White House to his remarks, but Madeleine Albright, the American ambassador to the UN, said the general should "stop the inciting action" and seek to restore law and order. "He is the one, and other leaders there, that ought to be working to try to restore any kind of modicum of life to Somalia."

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Goal beyond reach, page 12
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British troops poised to quit Vitez base

FROM BILL FROST IN VITEZ

AS MUSLIM fighters and their Islamic allies yesterday tightened their grip on the hills overlooking the British army headquarters here, the base went on "Orange Alert", with the men never out of flak jackets and helmets in case they have to pull out. One army source said the troops could "leave within minutes" if caught in the crossfire.

The reality is that the men of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire are already the meat in the sandwich. The base echoes constantly to the rumble of incoming and outgoing fire from the surrounding hills. The fighting is coming inexorably closer, and tension and frustration are mounting as the mission becomes ever

more futile. Contingency plans, including air cover, are in place for withdrawal as the Muslim offensive gathers momentum.

Serb forces meanwhile closed in on Gorazde, the last Muslim-held stronghold in eastern Bosnia, killing at least 50 people at a makeshift hospital, according to radio hams there. The town is one of the United Nations' "safe areas" for Muslims.

The UN position in Bosnia as a whole may be becoming untenable. At the weekend, in an emotional press conference in Sarajevo, General Philippe Morillon, commander of the UN Protection Force (Unprofor), slammed his fist on the table and said that the UN might have to give up. It



had saved "hundreds of thousands of lives" through humanitarian aid, but if the violence and anarchy continued to increase it would pull out "with rage and sadness in its heart".

Yesterday a BBC armoured car trying to leave the Vitez area under British army escort was forced to turn back after coming under sustained automatic weapons fire. A UN source said: "The War-

riors returned fire, but decided in the end not to risk the road out."

Later in the day a patrol of four armoured vehicles was intercepted close to the village of Guca Gora by a large band of Muslim irregulars led, bizarrely, by a British mercenary from Yorkshire wearing a blue bandanna. Mujahidin machine-guns trained their weapons on the Warriors and appeared ready to fire. In a broad Yorkshire accent, the Mujahidin leader said: "Just cool down. These men are under my command. They will only open fire if I say so."

After ten minutes of tense negotiation the patrol was allowed to continue to the neighbouring village of Maline, now firmly in Muslim hands. The local commander refused to shake

hands with Major Vaughan Kent-Payne, the British officer heading the column.

Around Vitez, Muslim forces have a stranglehold and are probing forward and gaining ground by the hour. The morale of Bosnian Croat troops has been severely dented by the loss of Travnik and the surrounding villages.

Yesterday Milan, a Croat militiaman just back from the front line, said of the fighting around Vitez: "The Muslims believe if they die in battle they will go straight to paradise. It makes them fearless. They will be here soon — and you British will be caught in the middle."

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Grand National enquiry condemns the flagman

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

AN enquiry into the void Grand National yesterday concluded that the flagman at the centre of the race fiasco failed to do his job "despite his assertions to the contrary".

Ken Evans, who was 57 on race day, maintained that he raised his red flag to alert jockeys after both false starts. Sir Michael Connell, a High Court judge, and the two other enquiry members watched several films of the steeplechase with Mr Evans before reaching their conclusion. "The evi-

dence... would be sufficient in a court of law to justify the conclusions we have reached," Sir Michael said yesterday.

Captain Keith Brown, the starter, was also criticised for allowing the 39 horses to get too close to the starting tape which stretched more than 65 yards across the track. The starting system was "outdated" and should have been replaced, the enquiry found.

E3 race debacle, page 2
Ascot prospects, page 27

England and Brazil draw

ENGLAND's football team salvaged some respect from recent form with a well-earned 1-1 draw with Brazil in the US Cup in Washington yesterday.

David Platt headed England ahead only two minutes after coming on as substitute for David Batty, and a surprise victory seemed likely until Marcel Santos was left unmarked to head the equaliser 13 minutes from time. England play Germany in on Wednesday.

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Match report, page 21

5,000 guns 'available to London criminals'

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AMID growing national police anxiety over rising gun crime, a specially formed Scotland Yard team of top detectives is this week starting an urgent investigation into the illegal firearms market.

One senior detective estimates that well over 5,000 guns are available to criminals in London, including some even available on hire for £100 a night. One handgun is thought by ballistics experts to have been used in at least one murder and two attempt-

ed murders in different areas of the capital this year.

Detective Superintendent Albert Patrick says that between 15 and 20 "fixers" can supply guns in his area in east London alone.

His officers are investigating nine gun-related murders or attempted murders, this year, including the gangland killing of James Moody. "Guns have always been

Continued on page 2, col 1
Dealers' dilemma, page 8

Cabinet left and right split on tax increases

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME Conservative manifesto commitments will have to be torn up if the government is to curb the £50 billion public deficit, Michael Heseltine said yesterday amid growing signs of a cabinet rift over tax increases in the November Budget.

Speaking only days before the cabinet meets to reaffirm its commitment to next year's £254 billion public spending ceiling, the President of the Board of Trade highlighted the severity of the deficit by saying that the country was living beyond its means. Mr Heseltine indicated that he favoured income tax increases as well as spending cuts by brushing aside a reminder from John Redwood, the cabinet newcomer, for the Tories to stick by their promises of no increases in income tax.

Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, said on BBC radio that the "clear pledges" on child benefit and the state pensions should be honoured in the quest for savings. In what had all the signs of a split between left and right in the highest reaches of the government, Mr Lilley, a leading Thatcherite, sided with Mr Redwood in opposing higher income tax.

After the trauma of the past two weeks, the prospect of cabinet infighting over higher income tax will dismay bruised Tory MPs, who are already bracing themselves for another buffeting in the Christmas by-election. Most MPs expect John Major to seek to minimise the political fallout of a likely defeat in one of the Tories' safest seats by holding the poll on July 22 or 29, around the time the Commons rises

for the summer recess. He could gamble on a September poll but such a delay would risk accusations that the government is running scared.

Conflicting cabinet views over spending cuts and tax increases emerged as the right-wing 92 Group prepared for an inquest tonight at Westminster on the state of the party. Most right-wingers believe that John Major has a year to retrieve his fortunes — a view apparently shared by the prime minister after his admission in *The Mail on Sunday* that he could face a leadership challenge next year. But one leading Thatcherite gave a warning yesterday that the prime minister would hasten his demise if he sided with those pressing for higher income tax.

Close attention will be paid to Kenneth Clarke's Mansion House speech to the City tomorrow — his first as Chancellor of the Exchequer — in which he will set out his approach across a broad range of economic matters, including spending and taxation.

In the BBC television interview, Mr Heseltine was asked about Mr Redwood's speech to Welsh Tories on Saturday in which he said "our manifesto said 'No' to increased income taxes. It was right then, it is right now." But Mr Heseltine suggested that the manifesto had been overtaken by events. "Those are the views that would be held today by the cabinet, those are the manifesto views."

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Diary and Peter Riddell, page 16

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Grand National enquiry

Starter and recall man blamed for £3m race debacle

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A COMBINATION of outdated starting equipment, human error and misjudgment by racing authorities was blamed yesterday for the Grand National fiasco, but it is unlikely that anyone will be disciplined for the sporting debacle.

The Jockey Club meets today to consider the findings of an enquiry team, chaired by Sir Michael Connell, which yesterday published its report into what went wrong at Aintree on April 3.

The team criticises the starter, Captain Keith Brown, for allowing the horses to get too close to the tape before the start and decided that the flag man, Ken Evans, who was supposed to warn jockeys of a false start, had not raised his flag, despite his protestations that he had.

The seven Jockey Club stewards, headed by the Marquess of Hartington, will look to see if racing's rules were broken. In theory, they could reprimand officials named in the report. The chances of disciplinary action, however, are considered remote.

The Grand National was declared void after two false starts, the second of which ended with nine horses completing the course. The cancellation of the world's best-known steeplechase cost the Treasury more than £3 million in lost betting revenue, while racing missed out on an expected £700,000 levy bonus.

The 20-page report produced by Sir Michael, a high court judge, Len Coburn, former deputy chairman of William Hill, and Stan Mellor, a trainer and former champion jockey, makes for sorry reading. As Mr Coburn said yesterday: "Everything that could go wrong went wrong."

Capt Brown is criticised for allowing the 39 horses to get too close to the starting tape stretched more than 65 yards across the course. "We have no doubt that the proximity of the horses to the start line this year was a major contributory factor to the two false starts," the report says. It emphasises: "He is in control of the start and must be responsible for its proper and effective conduct."

The most controversial part of the report involves Mr

Evans. Apart from criticising him for standing only 100 yards from the start, which meant he had only seconds to get out of the way of advancing horses, the Connell team concluded he did not raise his flag on either false start.

Mr Evans insisted during evidence to the enquiry that he had raised his flag, but after watching television footage and other film of the start, the team concluded: "Despite his assertions to the contrary, we conclude that Mr Evans did not wave his recall flag on either false start."

The report says: "So far as the first false start is concerned we have seen nothing to support his assertion that he waved his flag, and so far as the second false start is concerned, having seen numerous



Evans: report says he did not raise his recall flag

videos on a number of occasions including some at Teddington Television Studio, we are clear in our minds that he did not do so. We suspect that he was primarily concerned to leave the course as soon as possible because of the proximity of his selected position to the start."

The recall system was inadequate for Aintree's special needs, given the curve, the width of the course and the number of runners. The team concluded that the starting gate was outdated and should not have been used. "Responsibility for its continued use has to be shared by the Jockey Club and by the Aintree executive."

Significantly, Capt Brown and the Jockey Club's racecourse department had recom-

mended the width of the start to be reduced after the 1991 Grand National, due to various difficulties including the tape rising too slowly. However, John Parrett, managing director and clerk of the course at Aintree until his sudden death in December 1992, rejected the recommendation.

Capt Brown was not available at his home in Surrey yesterday, but issued a statement through the Jockey Club welcoming the report. He said it refuted allegations made in *Sporting Life* that he had prevented a review of starting procedures. "This charge was totally false, but I decided it would be inappropriate to make any comment whilst the enquiry was in progress," he said. "I hope that those who gave substance to this story will now agree to apologise for the considerable anxiety which this falsehood occasioned me."

Despite the thorough work by the enquiry team, the report appears to make an error in its consideration of the race's second false start. Close study of the television film shows that Capt Brown shouted "Come on" to jockeys a split-second before he had his hand on the lever to release the starting tape. By the time the tape started to rise, jockeys were beginning to move their horses forward, and it caught Formula One under the chin.

The report suggests that the starter released the tape and shouted the "Come on" instruction at the same time. Sir Michael insisted yesterday: "Our description is accurate."

Within minutes of the report's publication, Aintree racecourse pointed out that the grey gate method of starting the National was approved by the Jockey Club.

The racecourse executive also defended Mr Evans, saying: "We consider the observations made in relation to the advance flag man are unfair. There is no reason to doubt Mr Evans's own submission that he did raise his flag on each occasion."

A racing working party, chaired by Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles, is expected to report next month on how the start can be improved.



Ticket to fortune: Mickey Reid celebrating his success in the Irish national lottery win on the birthday of his son Joseph yesterday

Jobless roadsweeper cleans up £1.8m in lottery

AN UNEMPLOYED roadsweeper was contemplating a few changes to his lifestyle yesterday after winning a £1.8 million jackpot in the Irish state lottery. Mickey Reid, 39, who has been receiving £70 a week in benefits after asthma attacks forced him to stop work two months ago, said: "There is no point in pretending this

won't affect my life." Yesterday, however, he carried on as normal, celebrating the fourth birthday of his son, Joseph, with a party. "This party is the only thing that matters at the moment," he said. Mr Reid, who lives at Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, with his wife and three children, won his prize with a £4 ticket. He bought it in

the village of Blacklion, just south of the border with the Irish Republic. The whole of Ireland was anxiously awaiting the outcome of the draw, because the jackpot had not been won for two weeks. The Irish lottery has hit charity fund-raising efforts, a survey shows today. Out of 48 organisations ques-

tioned, 32 said they had had to step up their fund-raising since the lottery started in 1987. Fifteen had their income reduced. The survey, carried out for Britain's National Council for Voluntary Organisations, is published as the House of Lords is about to discuss amendments to the national lottery bill.

Rethink urged for jobless calculation

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government should replace the present figures used to measure unemployment by ones which would command more widespread credibility, the Unemployment Unit says.

The call from the unit, an independent pressure group, underlines political and City criticism of the current jobless figures after three monthly falls in unemployment went against expectations of a continuing increase.

The unit's criticisms come as David Hunt, the employment secretary, prepares to publish this week his first set of unemployment figures since the cabinet reshuffle. Mr Hunt has made clear his determination to bring down unemployment permanently from its current three million level, and ministers are hopeful that this week's figures will continue the downward trend of the past three months.

John Major said yesterday in a newspaper interview that the "inexorable upward rise" in unemployment had now stopped, although he accepted that the number out of work could still increase in the coming months.

The Unemployment Unit says that the current figures

should be replaced by statistics based on the quarterly Labour Force Survey, figures from the employment census and data from employers' payroll records, which are held by the Inland Revenue.

The unit, which will detail its reform proposals in a few weeks' time, believes that such statistics would form a more accurate measure of the real level of unemployment than the current monthly count of those out of work and claiming benefit.

Whitehall officials acknowledge that criticism of the figures has now spread beyond attacks by Frank Dobson, Labour's employment spokesman, and other opposition leaders, and that there is widespread questioning of the figures in the City and elsewhere. But they insist that the current official figures are legitimate, and statistically well-founded.

The unit's own unemployment index, which measures the number of people out of work in the way the figures used to be compiled, says there are really more than four million out of work — a gap of 1,149,100 over the official unemployment count.

MP at sea almost puts party in deep water

BY JAMIE DETTMER

JOHN Major's government came within a rope's length of facing another by-election at the weekend when a Tory MP nearly drowned after falling overboard during the Round the Islands Race.

For five sea-drenched minutes of the crew of another yacht saved the MP for Gosport. Mr Major's Commons majority of 17 — bobbed around in the Solent. Only the quick actions

of the crew of another yacht saved the MP for Gosport. Mr Viggers, who was not wearing a lifejacket or a safety harness when he toppled into the sea on Saturday, said later: "All I could do was shut my eyes and think of John Major."

No doubt to the prime minister's relief, he now promises that he will not even go on a ferry without observing stringent safety precautions. He said he deserved to be "horribly whipped for his stupidity."

Mr Viggers was only a few miles from Christchurch, the Hampshire seat where the Tories already have a by-election fight, when the safety rail on his yacht gave way. The 55-year-old MP was plunged into a rough sea. He was pulled out semi-conscious by the crew of the *Beetle*.

Yachting, page 28



Viggers: shut his eyes and thought of Major

Prince suffers back injury in polo game

The Prince of Wales left the polo field at Windsor Great Park clutching his back yesterday after suffering a recurrence of a back problem. He winced after stretching for a ball and left the field to lie down. After a few moments he stood up and stayed to watch the rest of the game.

A spectator said: "He went over to the pony lines and dismounted, clutching his back. He lay down and did some of the exercises he uses to help his back." The prince's press spokesman said: "He is not badly injured — he can walk — but as with all back problems, it hurts a good deal."

Tribute to killed father

A father who was killed to death after challenging 20 vandals on a Cardiff housing estate was "a good man trying his best against a tide of lawlessness," a vicar said yesterday. The Rev Bob Morgan demanded action, saying the sacrifice of Les Reed, 45, who died on Friday, should not be wasted. Police were interviewing eight men aged 16 to 22.

Call for local policing

The number of police forces in England and Wales should be cut by half from the present 43, according to Sir John Woodcock, the retiring chief inspector of constabulary, who said that policing should be locally based. The Home Office is due to issue a white paper outlining ways of speeding up force amalgamations.

Murrell file re-opened

West Mercia police said they had reopened their enquiries into the death of the peace campaigner Hilda Murrell after a security services expert said he could name her killers. A new book says that Miss Murrell was killed by MI5 agents because they believed she had secret information on the sinking of the *General Belgrano* during the Falklands War.

Crossword hat-trick

William Pilkington, 49, chief budget officer for Cleveland council, won the regional final of *The Times* Crossword Championship at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, in association with Knockando Scotch whisky, for the third year running. David Howell, 39, of Roundhay School, Leeds, was second, and Dr Peter Mayo, 49, of Sheffield University, third.

K2 climbers fly out

Five British mountaineers left Manchester airport yesterday to climb K2 in the Himalayas. At 28,253ft, it is the world's second highest and probably most difficult mountain. The attempt by the three men and two women will be the first from Britain since 1986, when Julie Tullis and Alan Rouse died in storms as they descended from the summit.

Yard launches gun crackdown

Continued from page 1 around," he said, "but they are definitely on the increase. I could ring an informant and offer £400 for a gun and ask him to bring it in half an hour, and he could deliver."

The total of firearms offences remains very small, but offences rose threefold between 1981 and 1991. Deaths and serious injuries are rising by 4 per cent a year. Det Supt

Patrick and other detectives believe many young criminals invest in guns for even robberies yielding as little as £200 or £300. There are three or four armed robberies a day in London, but large hauls are now exceptional.

The Yard team, which meets tomorrow, plans new investigations into weapons used in crime and co-ordination of all data on guns and crime.

Jim Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside and chairman of a chief constables' committee on firearms, said nobody knew the scale of the black market. He believes, however, that the number of illegal guns available is far greater than is realised. "We would be complacent if we were not worried," he said.

Dealers' dilemma, page 8

Disillusioned Tory voters turn to Lib Dems

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats are proving the main beneficiaries of the slump in Conservative support, according to the latest MORI poll.

The centre party is picking up about 40 per cent of disgruntled Tories, with nearly 30 per cent switching to Labour. The new figures are an ominous sign for the government as John Major prepares to name the day for the Christchurch by-election.

Although the Tories are defending a 23,000 majority in one of their safest seats in the country, they are acutely vulnerable to the kind of Liberal

Democrat surge that captured Newbury and triggered the prime minister's latest troubles.

The survey also shows that the botched cabinet reshuffle and last week's Commons outburst by Norman Lamont has inflicted more damage on Mr Major's perilously low personal ratings.

Over the past fortnight, there has been a swing of 6.5 per cent against the prime minister and his standing has fallen to an all-time low. The position of John Smith, the Labour leader, is unchanged, with the dispute over union links apparently cancelling any gains he made from his widely acclaimed Commons performance on

Wednesday — the day of the former Chancellor's statement on his dismissal from the Treasury.

The voting intention figures are based on a MORI analysis of 118 "lost Tory voters" among the 1,043 people questioned for the latest poll on Friday and Saturday. They show that among people who voted Conservative at the last election, 39 per cent now support the Liberal Democrats and 27 per cent back Labour. In addition, 14 per cent would not vote if there was an election now and 13 per cent are undecided.

Among the public generally, Mr Major's satisfaction rating has fallen from minus 50 points to minus 63 over

the past fortnight, a swing against him of 6.5 per cent. Mr Smith's rating is up marginally.

While among the public generally Kenneth Clarke does best, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, emerges as the man most likely to win back lost Tories. The poll found that if he were to replace Mr Major as prime minister, he would generate a 7 per cent swing to the Tories, compared with a 6.5 per cent swing with Kenneth Clarke and 1.5 per cent with Michael Howard.

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Peter Riddell and Diary, page 16

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Latest travel killing puts pressure on tour firms

■ The shooting of a Briton in Washington has highlighted concerns that travel agents are not passing on Foreign Office warnings

By Nicholas Watt and Martin Fletcher in Washington

THE son of an elderly Briton shot dead in an apparently motiveless killing in Washington paid tribute yesterday to his father, who had dedicated the last three years of his life to his sick wife.

News of the shooting comes amid allegations that the Foreign Office and travel agents are failing to give adequate warning of dangers for tourists.

Noel Fitzpatrick, 72, from Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, was shot in an alley in the American capital after he inadvertently wandered into an area reserved for prostitution and drug-dealing. The city's police said he appeared to have got off at the wrong Metro station, less than two miles from the White House.

Mr Fitzpatrick had accompanied his son, Liam, 44, on a business trip to Washington. He was sightseeing on his own when killed last Thursday. His son, from Oundle, Northamptonshire, said yesterday: "It was a totally senseless killing of a harmless 72-year-old man, who was the most kind and gentle person you could hope to meet."

"Married for 49 years, he leaves a wife who is in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease. He had dedicated the last three years of his life to looking after her night and day. This was his first holiday in two years and he had been looking forward to it for months."

Mr Fitzpatrick's body, with a single bullet wound to the chest, was found in an alley in the Shaw area of Northwest Washington at 5.25pm. The killer's motive remains a mystery as his camera and \$300 in his wallet was not taken. A man was reportedly seen running from the alley after the shooting.

Mr Fitzpatrick's widow, now being treated for a leukaemia, said: "We only hope that he did not suffer too much in his last moments. It is absolutely tragic that the life of such a good man had to end so horribly."

The death of Mr Fitzpatrick again illustrates the dangers faced by tourists in an unfamiliar American city. As other British visitors have learned in Miami and New Orleans recently, streets can turn from safe to extremely hazardous in the space of a few blocks.

An MP said this week that the Foreign Office to improve its system of warning about dangerous holiday locations after allegations in a television programme, doubts that travel agents are passing on warnings.

In a survey for tonight's *World in Action* programme, entitled "The Dark Side of the Sun", 30 travel agents failed to tell a reporter posing as a tourist that the Foreign Office had issued warnings about the dangers of travelling in Egypt.

Nigel Evans, Conservative MP for Ribblesdale, said yesterday that Foreign Office guidance should be as prominent as glossy brochures. "Both the Foreign Office and travel agents have got to do more," Mr Evans said.

But Keith Beaton, head of corporate affairs at the Association of British Travel Agents, said: "We have a system that works well. The Foreign Office types information into our computer system and I would hope that our travel agents would pass on that information."

Rust closes Tower Bridge to traffic for three months

By Tim Jones
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TOWER Bridge, one of the world's most distinctive river crossings, closes today for three months for essential repairs. The bridge, which is 100 years old next year, is being shut because rust is eating into and weakening the steel box girders beneath the two towers.

Chris Stevens, the bridge's engineer, says it is a tribute to the technological skills of the bridge's designers and builders that it has coped so well with the 40,000 vehicles that use it each day.

Many of the four million people who visit the bridge each year believe it to be a sight but this is merely coincidental because Sir John Wolfe-Barry's extraordinary feat of engineering is constructed of steel.

The bridge took eight years to build at a cost of £1 million. When it was opened by the Prince of Wales on June 30, 1894, it was regarded by the *Builder* magazine as "The whole structure is the most monstrous and preposterous architectural sham that we have ever known. It is a discredit to the generation that erected it."

The *Times* better captured the public mood. "The opening of the Tower Bridge on Saturday was a picturesque and stately ceremonial, perfectly performed under the most favourable conditions. The effect produced on the immense multitude of spectators by the actual opening of the movable roadway was remarkable."

For a moment the great crowd was hushed and silent. Then, in a deafening shout of applause, which soared as only a British cheer can roar... they gave vent to their admiration and delight at the marvel they had been privileged to see."

The Corporation of London, the bridge's owner, is disappointed that only 500,000 visitors each year pay to enter the bridge to see the coal-powered machinery which was used to operate the two 1,200-tonne bascules which are raised to allow through river traffic.

It will open a £3.25 million exhibition in August, which will use video, light, sound and smell to take visitors back in time and tell the story of the bridge which will be told by lifelike animated model guides.



Bridge of sighs: traffic jams are expected as the 40,000 vehicles a day that use Tower Bridge look for another way over the Thames

Motorists given no help to beat jams

POLICE and local authorities concede that London may face severe traffic problems today because of the closure of Tower Bridge, which normally handles 40,000 vehicles a day, but they are not recommending any alternative routes.

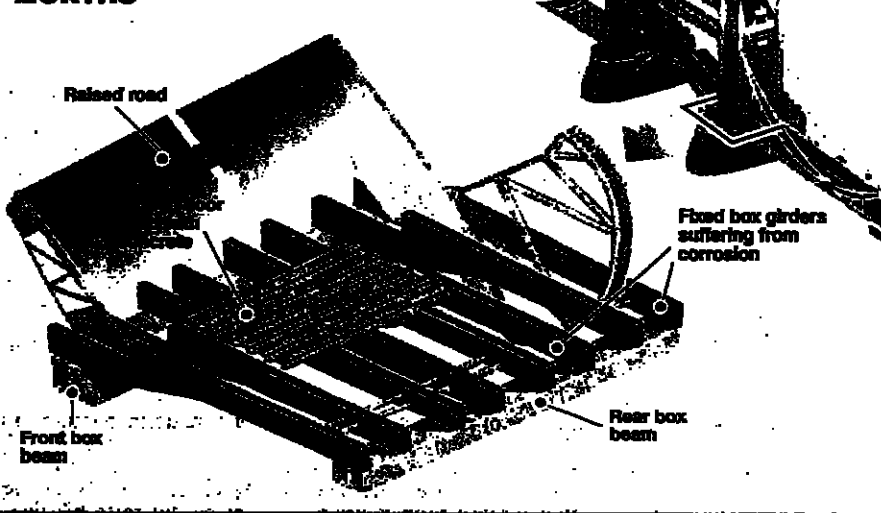
The Corporation of London, which owns the 99-year-old bridge, believes that signs displayed over a huge area of the capital will give motorists sufficient warning of possible bottlenecks. Its research shows that 90 per cent of motorists who use the bridge are local and should therefore be able to work out other routes for themselves.

Any traffic jams will be made worse in the City because of continuing bomb damage repairs in Bishopsgate and work at Bank underground station.

Long delays can be expected along the length of the main eastern approach from the recently opened Limehouse Link, along The Highway and down Lower and Upper Thames Streets.

South of the river, traffic is expected to build up along Bridge Road, Jamaica Road, Tooley Street, Southwark Street, York Road and as far as the Albert Embankment.

WHY TOWER BRIDGE IS CLOSING FOR THREE MONTHS



Wrappings 'double food bills'

By Michael Hornsby
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ELABORATE packaging of food and other supermarket goods is inflating shopping bills and depleting natural resources, according to a survey published today.

Packaging accounts for £10 in every £75 spent on groceries and the price of some goods is almost doubled by the cost of unnecessary wrapping material, the report by Friends of the Earth says.

"People are paying for packaging they do not need," the group said yesterday. "This is not only a consumer con, it is wasting resources and creating pollution."

The report accepts that most stores offer a choice between minimally and more elaborately packaged goods but says that price comparisons are sometimes difficult because different weight units are used. Friends of the Earth calls on EC states to set a limit on the amount of packaging that can be used and to take steps to increase the proportion of goods sold loose or in re-usable containers.

Wales given flood aid as more die

By a Staff Reporter

AN AID programme for areas of Wales devastated by two days of torrential rain was announced by the government yesterday, a day after three people were killed in the West Country.

Sir Wyn Roberts, minister of state at the Welsh Office, said that the people of Llandudno and Conwy in Gwynedd had put on a brave face and responded magnificently to the emergency. "I cannot praise too highly the emergency services, local authorities and volunteers who carried out their responsibilities in an exemplary fashion," Sir Wyn said.

"Without their combined efforts, the situation in North Wales would undoubtedly have been very much worse."

The assistance comes from the Bellwin scheme, which can be activated for emergency relief after exceptional storm or flood damage.

Fresh storms broke over Wales, the West Country and Ireland at the weekend. In Cornwall and Devon, strong winds exacerbated high tides and heavy rain. An elderly woman, named as Beryl East,

from Sussex, died when she fell into the flooded East Lyn river in north Devon while walking with her husband and was swept downstream.

One person died and another was missing after a boating accident in the Camel estuary, north Cornwall. Coastguards said that a windsurfer died in north Cornwall after getting into difficulties off Hayle.

At Bideford, north Devon, people were evacuated from their homes as a dam holding back floodwater overflowed. Police said last night that the waters were abating.

In Ireland, a 14-year-old boy drowned after he fell into a flooded drain at Baldoy, co. Dublin, and two teenagers were missing, feared drowned, after their car crashed into a flooded river at Duleek, co. Meath.

Areas worst affected by the weather were beginning the long task of getting back to normal. But hundreds of families at Llandudno were still unable to return to their flooded homes.

Forecast, page 20

Former head of INLA shot

By a Staff Reporter

THE former terrorist leader Dominic McGlinchey was under police guard in hospital yesterday after being involved in a gun attack.

Police in the Irish Republic were at the Our Lady of Lourdes hospital at Drogheda, co. Louth, where Mr McGlinchey was treated for a hand wound. His condition was said to be comfortable.

Two men in a car opened fire as Mr McGlinchey, 39, walked along a street at Dundalk, co. Louth.

Mr McGlinchey, a former IRA member from Bellaghy, co. Londonderry, took over the Irish National Liberation Army in the early 1980s and became Ireland's most wanted man. He once claimed to have taken part in 30 murders.

He was released this year from the top-security Portlaoise prison after serving seven years of a ten-year sentence for firearms offences. He has been living in Dublin since his release.

In 1987, his wife Mary was shot dead in her house at Drogheda. The killing was blamed on an INLA feud.

Morris Minor gains executive cred

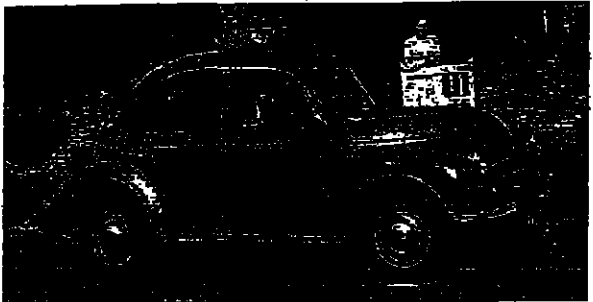
By Kevin Eason
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Morris Minor, once the favourite mode of transport of the district nurse and favourite aunt, is finding a place in the executive car park.

Demand is growing for Morris Minors as company cars, more than 22 years after the model went out of production. It seems that its simplicity and reliability are attracting a growing number of executives.

A survey of company car use, made recently by Stoy Benefit Consulting, found the usual army of BMWs, Rovers and Mercedes in boardroom car parks. But lurking at the bottom of the list was the Minor, designed by Sir Alec Issigonis, who also created the Mini.

Charles Ware, director of a



Hit with nurses: an early four-door saloon version

Morris Minor restoration centre at Bath and long-time champion of the car, says that those executives who have set their hearts on the Minor are no longer an oddity in the days of high-tech. He said yesterday: "It makes sense to many companies to use a car which is simple to maintain and repair, cheap to run, yet can still run comfortably on a

motorway or park in a tiny space. It has everything."

The executive using a Minor will also enjoy a boost to his or her bank balance from next year, under new government rules on benefit-in-kind taxation on company car drivers. The Minor drivers in Stoy's survey would be paying £632 this year in tax under current rules linked to the engine size of the car. But

in 1994-5, the bill will drop to just £47, because of changes which target the list price of the car, assuming the driver is on the 40 per cent tax rate and covers more than 2,500 business miles a year.

The Minor is a car that has refused to die, even though William Morris, later Lord Nuffield, was decidedly sniffy about the design. He thought it looked like a poached egg.

If Nuffield hated it, the public loved it. More than 1.5 million were sold between 1949 and 1971. Mr Ware estimates there are still about 65,000 in Britain and thousands more in India and Sri Lanka, where it is still in production.

Minor owners can have a more modern version of Morris's old A-series 1275cc engine to meet the latest emission requirements.

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حسابات الادخار

Healthy boy treated for cancer after mistake with test

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

A HEALTH authority is to launch an enquiry into how a boy was treated with toxic drugs for a cancer that he did not have. Scores of other patients are having their cancer tests checked following the discovery of the error.

The boy underwent several sessions of chemotherapy at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham, one of the two main bone cancer centres, before the mistake was discovered. At least 100 other patients treated at the hospital are to have their test results checked. Some given the all-clear face renewed anxiety while they wait for confirmation that they are out of danger.

South Birmingham health authority will open an enquiry this week into how the error occurred. The boy, whose identity is not being disclosed, is receiving treatment to counter the chemotherapy, which has distressing side-effects. Powerful cytotoxic (cell-destroying) drugs are used to treat cancer and many patients suffer severe nausea and lose their hair.

Dr Gillian Todd, chief executive of South Birmingham Acute Unit, which includes the orthopaedic hospital, said that the mistake in the boy's diagnosis was discovered during routine checks on May 24. The

Patients who had tests for bone cancer have been told that the results are being reconsidered after an error was found

pathologist involved has gone on sick leave. Dr Todd said: "We believe there is little need for patients to be anxious."

The hospital is to check the results for all patients who have attended the unit this year. Some have still to be told of the mistake. Pathology specimens from the past six months' work are being sent for review by experts in other centres as a precautionary measure. The checks may take up to a month.

Professor Peter Lachmann, president of the Royal College of Pathologists, said: "Some tumours are very difficult to diagnose, but with others it is easy and to miss it is quite disgraceful." Dr Todd refused to say what type of tumour the boy was believed to have, but conceded that some should be easy to diagnose.

The error was made public after a man awaiting an operation at the hospital for a malignant leg tumour contacted the local press after being told by his surgeon that his treatment had been cancelled.

The patient, described as a self-employed businessman who is living on £42 a week sickness benefits, told a newspaper that he has to wait up to three weeks for his tests to be

checked and does not know whether or not he has cancer, or if it is worse than first believed.

He said: "My surgeon contacted me and said the tests which had diagnosed the tumour would have to be checked again. They had told me the tumour was contained in one area and that I would be as good as new after the operation. Now we are back to square one."

The surgeon said he did not want to build up any hopes that I might not have cancer. Now I don't know if I have got it or not."

The enquiry, which is to meet for the first time on Wednesday, was set up after consultation with the Royal College of Pathologists. The members include experts in bone pathology, cancer treatment and orthopaedic surgery and they will be led by a health authority chairman from outside the region.



In the *Beagle's* wake: Lieutenant-Colonel Ewen Southby-Tailyour takes *Black Velvet III*, in which he plans to retrace parts of Darwin's voyages, for a trial on the Solent. The modified *Tradewind 35* will sail to the Arctic and the Red Sea

Legal fight forces BBC to postpone gem trade series

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BBC2 has withdrawn a prestigious £500,000 documentary from its summer schedule after a series of financial and legal difficulties threatened to bring filming of the programme to a halt.

Production of *Diamond Empire*, a three-part investigation into the diamond industry made jointly with Australian programme-makers, was suspended in March after a federal court in Australia froze bank accounts containing money destined for the documentary. The action followed allegations that nearly £10,000 paid by backers to Impact Investigative Media Productions, an independent producer hired to make the film, had "disappeared".

Although the BBC's main partner in Sydney, the Australian Film Finance Corporation, has reached an out-of-court settlement with Impact and filming has resumed, the series is now an estimated £50,000 over budget and will not be ready for its planned screening this July.

The overspend and delay come as an embarrassment to the BBC at a time when soaring production costs are increasingly forcing broadcasters to enter co-production deals with overseas partners.

Because of strict co-production rules laid down by the Australian Film Commission and ratified by the British Board of Trade, the BBC has been forced to keep Australian production crews on full pay during most of the delays.

Diamond Empire, which investigates one of the world's most secretive industries and is being shot on location in Australia, Africa, India and the Commonwealth of Independent States, has already been in production for four years.

Researchers and broadcasting executives working on the series say that the BBC failed to exercise proper control over the quality of the production team. Many of the problems are put down to personality clashes on the set and research problems.

The BBC is believed to have invested just under half of the budget. A small sum has come from the American public service broadcaster WGBH, which has bought rights to re-edit the series for the United States market.

The series' backers in Australia include the AFCC and the state-backed Film Victoria. The BBC's original partner, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, pulled out of the production side in 1989 but has retained a small financial interest and screening rights. A spokesman for the AFCC said that a new production company, Inca, had been hired to complete the series.

A BBC spokeswoman said: "It is perhaps not surprising that a complex series like this one has encountered a few delays which may lead to a small extra cost for the production partners. Filming is going ahead while this is under discussion."

Prep schools raise age limit to fight poaching of pupils

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PREPARATORY schools, which have suffered as public schools take in younger pupils, have begun to strike back with an age shift of their own.

Some are planning to raise their upper age limit from 13 to 16, taking pupils through to GCSE. The first to make the change, in September 1993, will be St John's School, Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan. Independent secondary schools have been gradually lowering their age of entry for several years as the market has become more competitive. Many have opened their own prep departments, and it has become the most common age of transfer for day pupils.

The prep schools became so concerned that last year they negotiated a set of guidelines with senior schools on changes in admissions policy. Heads are expected to consult potential competitors before they make changes.

Some prep schools believe

that they can reverse the trend by taking advantage of wider changes in education. Improvements to facilities and staffing made partly in response to the national curriculum would allow them to offer GCSE courses without the burden of sixth forms driving up fees.

Independent public school fees, at least 25 per cent, have risen sharply in recent years, encouraging increasing numbers of parents to consider state sixth-form colleges when their children have completed GCSE. Some colleges in the South East are now recruiting up to a third of their students from independent schools, and several are employing marketing firms to boost the numbers. Those staying on at prep schools would therefore find a ready market for A-level places in the state or independent sectors.

Alan Hughes, headmaster of St John's school, said that

the shape of the public school and prep school system would be unrecognisable within 50 years. St John's is making its changes with the blessing of other independent schools in Wales. Mr Hughes said: "It is more than 50 miles to the nearest Headmasters' Conference school. At boarding was the only option for those who wanted to stay in the independent sector. Whether for financial or social reasons, parents have become reluctant to go that way, and they pressed us to go through to 16."

Other prep school heads are reluctant to discuss similar plans until they have been cleared with governors and parents. But one said: "The guidelines have not stopped public schools from poaching our pupils. With the trend towards sixth-form colleges, there is a real opportunity for us."

Education, page 35



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75% of Irish favour visit by Queen

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MORE than three quarters of the electorate in the Irish Republic would support proposals for a state visit to Dublin by the Queen, according to an opinion poll.

The poll, carried out by Lansdowne Market Research for the *Sunday Press*, found 76 per cent of voters were in favour, while 17 per cent were opposed and 7 per cent had no opinion. Support for an official visit to Britain by Mary Robinson, the Irish president, was even higher, with 83 per cent in favour and 10 per cent against.

The poll follows the historic private visit to Britain by Mrs Robinson last month, when she went to Buckingham Palace for the first meeting between an Irish head of state and a British sovereign since 1937. Mrs Robinson hailed the occasion as an important symbol of closer relationships between Britain and Ireland. It was followed by considerable speculation in Ireland - played down in London - that a senior member of the royal family might make an official visit to Dublin in the near future.

The poll confirms that the majority of people in the republic want a full normalisation of relations between the two states.

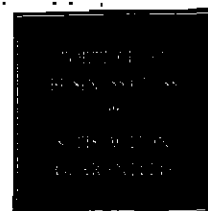
Another Lansdowne poll in the *Sunday Press* showed increased support for Albert Reynolds, the prime minister.

The poll indicated that the Fianna Fáil leader's popularity among voters had gone up by 16 points to 38 per cent. Fianna Fáil has 43 per cent support, up four points since November's general election.

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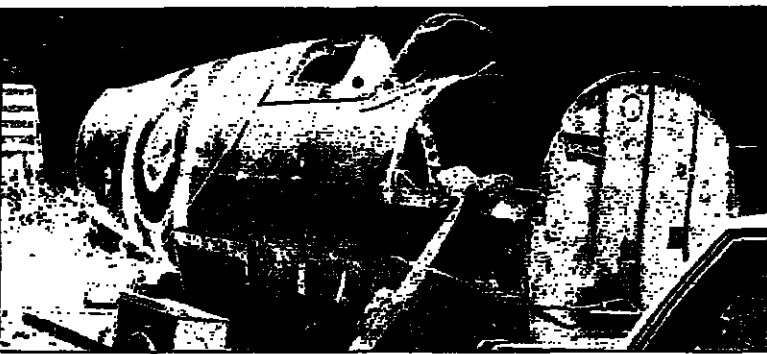
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Spitfire plundered for spare parts is restored to the skies



Flying restart: the sad remains of a Spitfire shot down during the D-Day landings, left, have been restored to original Dutch air force colours, above. After 18 months of restoration work at Lydd airport in Kent, MK732 flew across the Channel this weekend to be the showpiece of celebrations to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Holland's 322 Spitfire Squadron.

The plane has had a chequered history. It was built at Castle Bromwich in 1944 for the RAF but was shot down later that year over Normandy during the D-Day opera-

tions. After repairs it was used by the Dutch air force until 1954, when it was "liberated" by members of RAF 14 Squadron and put on display at Gutersloh air base in West Germany. In the mid-sixties it was stripped for spare parts, but in 1990 it was rescued by two Dutch businessmen. They raised the £500,000 cost of the restoration, which began in 1991.

More than 40 volunteers from Britain and Holland co-operated in rebuilding the plane, one of 41 Spitfires still flying. It will be exhibited on the European airshow circuit.



THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

SUSAN Arkell, rated Britain's top woman chess player, has won a play-off in Vienna to qualify for the Fide inter-zonal championship to be held in Indonesia in August. She scored 2½ points out of three against her Dutch and Spanish opponents.

Forthcoming one-day tournaments in the London area will be staged at Golders Green on June 19 (further information 081-202 0982), the Barbican on June 20 (081-446 8569), the Chess and Bridge Centre, 369 Euston Road (071-388 2404), and in Westminster (081-995 5881), both on June 26.

London, as an international chess capital, is second only to Moscow. Chess in London first reached a global audience with the match between Alexander McDonnell and Louis Charles de la Bourdonnais in 1834. In 1851 Howard Staunton organised the first international chess tournament, again in London. At the same time, the Immortal Game was played at Simpson's in the Strand. This game, between Anderssen and Kieseritzky, was the most brilliant played up to that point. It will be published in *The Times Magazine* on Saturday.

The London tournament of 1851, the strongest the world had seen, was dominated by

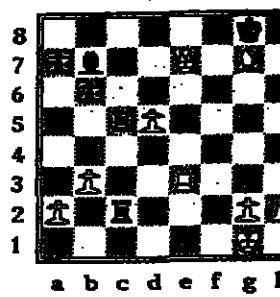
Zukertort and Steinitz. White's 28th move, Qb4, was a queen sacrifice which created a sensation.

White: Johannes Zukertort
Black: Joseph Blackburne
London 1853

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 c4 e5
2 d4 exd4
3 Nf3 Nc6
4 Bg5 Bc7
5 0-0 d5
6 d4 Bb4
7 Nc3 Nbd7
8 Bc2 Qc7
9 Bb3 Ne4
10 Nd5 cxd5
11 Nc6 Nf6
12 Ne2 Nd2
13 Bc2 dxc4
14 Qxc2 d5
15 Bc4 Bf6
16 Bb3 Re7
17 Re1 Rg8
18 e4 Nc6
19 d5 Nf6
20 f4 g6
21 Re3 h5
22 e6 Nf6

Diagram of final position



33 f5 Nc4
34 Bc4 Qc4
35 Nf6 Re2
36 gxf7 Nf6
37 d5+ e5
38 Qc4 Rf8
39 Rf8+ Kf7
40 Qc4+ Kg7
41 Bc5+ Kf8
42 Bg7 Kf8
43 Qc7 Black resigns

Championship update: latest odds

The latest odds quoted by William Hill are 2-9 for Garry Kasparov to win, 9-2 for Nigel Short to win and 8-1 for a draw. According to the match rules, a drawn match would result in the champion retaining his title.

The Savoy Hotel and Simpson's in the Strand are both providing prestigious hospitality packages to *The Times* World Chess Championship match between Kasparov and Short. For information, call Simpson's on 071-836 9112. On the spot bond-holders will experience the thrill of being at a live television event. During the match the Savoy Theatre will be transformed into a giant television studio for the 60 hours of Channel 4 coverage.

Winning Move, page 40

Tighter laws tempt gun dealers into crime trade

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

REGISTERED firearms dealers are helping to fuel an epidemic of gun crimes on inner-city streets by selling weapons under the counter to criminals in a bid to ward off the effects of the recession and tougher shotgun regulations.

Enquiries by *The Times* show that at least three cases in which legitimate gun retailers have allegedly gone "over the wall" by selling to criminals are currently under investigation or awaiting trial. The cases — in London, the North West and the north Midlands — involve supplying and dealing in stolen weapons, from pistols to sub-machine guns.

A senior detective said that firearms dealers, whose livelihoods depend on gun sales, had been made vulnerable by the recession. "People put off buying guns, like they do buying a new car. Therefore there is significant pressure to act outside the law."

Since 1988, when the Firearms Amendment Act was introduced in response to the Hungerford massacre and conditions for the issue of shotgun certificates were toughened, the number of certificate holders in England and Wales has plunged from 832,000 to 724,000 and continues to decline. The number of firearm certificates has fallen from 155,000 to 138,000.

There is ever-growing demand for firearms from gangs of young hoodlums involved in the illegal drugs trade. The contribution by corrupt elements among Britain's 3,000 registered dealers to the proliferation of illegally held guns is a worrying new trend for police, although a much greater menace is the flow of firearms from abroad.

The number of illegally held firearms in Britain is put at more than a million by Colin

Greenwood, a former West Yorkshire police superintendent who is now editor of *Gun Review*. Most are "innocently" held by ex-servicemen or their families as war mementoes, and up to 3,000 a year are voluntarily surrendered to police.

But an unquantifiable new wave of firearms, brought about by the abolition of European trade barriers and the collapse of the Berlin Wall, is believed to be flowing in to Britain.

Det Chief Supt David James, head of Greater Manchester CID, said: "With the reduction in border controls, it's extremely difficult at the enforcement end to keep a grip on what's going on."

Mr James is one of many top policemen calling for tougher sanctions. "If we start looking at mandatory prison sentences of five or ten years we may impact on the trafficking of firearms."

In Manchester's Moss Side district, where Benji Stanley, a 14-year-old schoolboy, was gunned down in cold blood in January, more than 70 per cent of illegally held guns are believed to be owned by criminals involved in drugs trafficking. There are 30 to 40 hardened drugs dealers who control the Alexandra Park housing estate. All have access to weapons in Moss Side, where £50 will buy a single-shot handgun and £300 a semi-automatic pistol.

Christopher Brunker, director of the Gun Trade Association, which has about 250 registered gun retailers among its members, said that tighter controls on legitimate ownership of firearms made it more likely that guns would be concentrated in criminal hands. "For anyone in the legitimate and traditional trade, the risks of doing anything illegal are just too great."

Police crackdown, page 1

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Power to the people in a tax revolution

The Times Essay

The public is sceptical about handing blank cheques to the government, argue Geoff Mulgan and Robin Murray. Taxes should be earmarked for particular purposes by democratic consent

Two hundred years ago, the great slogan was, "No taxation without representation". A wave of revolutions ushered in the modern era of national representative democracy. Our political system, based around parties, manifestos, budgets and national civil services, is a product of those revolts. But in recent decades its deficiencies have become ever more apparent, and it is in the field of tax, the decisive relationship between governments and governed, that they have come to the fore.

Since the mid-1970s, politics has been dominated by tax. California's Proposition 13, the rise of anti-tax parties from Norway to Canada, and a series of bitter elections, have all reflected an unmistakable public hostility to tax. Many interpreted this simply as a reaction to the rising levels of tax. But it was also, we believe, a revolt against the forms of tax the consolidation of all into single pools under the control of treasuries, and the disconnection of taxes from services. It was a revolt against a system in which the main lines of accountability, of public services, health authorities and even local government, went upwards to national government and not downwards to those who used the services.

It is this disconnection which has undermined the credibility of governments and parties when they call for higher taxes. Few believe that the money will be well used. Instead, governments appear as a black hole into which resources disappear. The result is that they have become chronically unable to meet the rising costs of labour-intensive public services and a growing number of dependents, whether old, young or unemployed.

While there was still a consensus on state spending, as during wartime, or in the post-war reconstruction, pooling was not problematic. The shared sense of purpose helped to legitimise higher taxes. But since then the political, moral and administrative foundations of pooling have gradually broken down. There is no longer a clear consensus about the priorities for welfare. A more consumerist society has become used to accountability. A less deferential public has become sceptical about handing blank cheques to government.

At the same time, administrative centralisation has lost credibility. It means that budget makers manage funds for activities from which they are far distant, using standard procedures which are ill-suited to the

diversities of need and provision. When cuts are made, it is the blunt axe of the Treasury and the secretive interdepartmental struggle which determines who loses. The irony is that at the very time when central planning has been decisively rejected in the East, budgetary centralisation is actually increasing in Britain.

What is now needed is a tax revolution far more profound than anything attempted in the 1980s. It needs the energy of previous reforms, like those at the end of the 18th century which ended the arbitrary privileges of feudalism, or those of the late 19th century which consolidated the tax system around income tax and redistribution.

Like them, the next wave of reform will be driven by two factors: the relentless upward pressures on public spending and the need to legitimate government. Like them, it will in part be designed to address a democratic deficit.

Its central theme will be the remaking of connections. There are three ways in which this can be done. The first is by earmarking, or hypothecating, taxes for particular purposes: tobacco taxes for health, pollution taxes for environmental investment, fuel taxes for public transport, graduate taxes for universities, or insurance systems which transfer tax between different stages of the life cycle. Earmarking helps to clarify the relative virtues of different

kinds of spending, building legitimacy through the connections it makes. It has relevance right across the range of public provision, even redistribution. At the moment, those who vote for tax cuts can be seen as contributing to Comic Relief. They send in their cheques because there is a clear link between the two, and because they trust the body concerned. Tax pooling prevents these connections; hypothecation would remake them.

Hypothecation renders services more independent of central budgetary processes. It encourages providers to look outwards, to the public, to convince and to the funding sources on which they depend. This is why the Treasury and many senior politicians are so hostile to it. But the political advantages should also be recognised. President Clinton's recent decision to earmark increased taxes on the wealthy to a trust fund to pay off the deficit helped to defuse the growing campaign against his tax proposals.

The second step is to link earmarking to democratic consent. This is the simplest way to determine the services which voters value. The national health service is one example where voters could be offered alternative funding options for earmarking income taxes to health in a referendum. London Underground is another example where support for the £300 million investment needed to transform it from an ill-maintained and

inefficient system into one of world class could be tested in a poll of citizens and businesses. In each case, since central government cannot provide the funds, there is a clear case for passing choice and responsibility downwards, sharing parliament's sovereignty with citizens.

A third principle of reconnection is subsidiarity: devolving the power to set taxes to the lowest appropriate level. This has been common in North America and in Europe. In the UK the movement has been the other way, and local government now raises only 14 per cent of its own revenue. The flaws of the present system are shown in Harlow, where the government is now imposing a 50 per cent budget cut in spite of a petition signed by 20,000 people, 40 per cent of the town's adult population. The alternative is simple: councils would be allowed to hold a local poll on budgets and set in excess of government limits, an idea proposed by Michael Heseltine in 1988 and put into practice by Trevor Harman in 1992 and 1993, when voters chose the highest council tax rate in the county. Local democracy could then be further enhanced by giving councils and voters the right to gather signatures to put proposals on the ballot paper for such things as the provision of new nursery places or an Olympic bid.

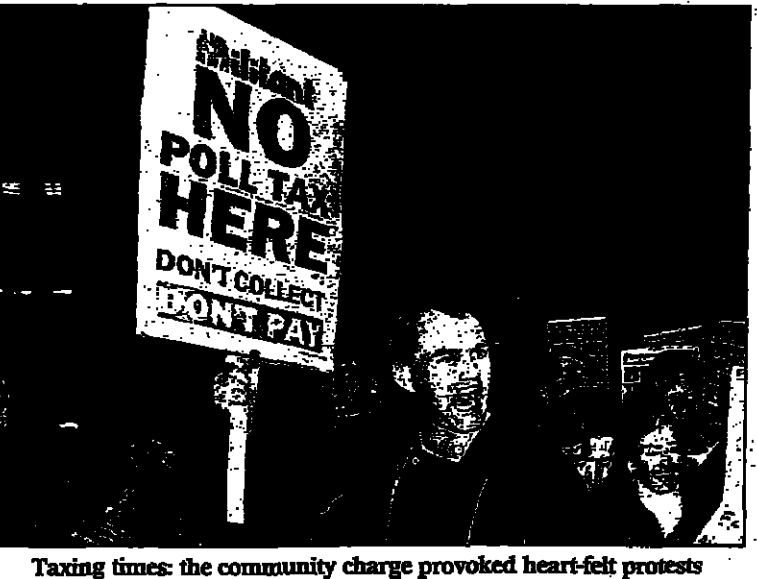
Each of these measures would introduce a new discipline in local government. Inefficient, corrupt and unresponsive services would suffer. Entrepreneurial managers and workforces who met new needs would be rewarded. The crude centralist disciplines of the 1980s would be replaced with a tougher, more relevant discipline. Above all, local civic life would be revitalised with a more varied set of connections than is offered by an occasional vote at elections.

In the past, fiscal crises have reflected deeper political crises. This was the case in England in 1640, in America in 1776, in France in 1789 and again in Britain in the constitutional crisis that followed Lloyd George's budget in 1909.

Today's crisis is also in large part political. It has been brought to a head because the lumbering party and electoral system is no longer up to the job of transmitting the complex preferences of a modern electorate. It cannot restore the credibility of the centralised budget, the party manifestos and the secret spending review.

Tax has historically been the midwife of democracy. For 200 years the trend has been towards the democratisation of the incidence of tax. But at the close of the 20th century the crucial question has moved on to democratising the tax relationship itself. The challenge now is for politicians to match their new enthusiasm for the reinvention of government with an even more far-reaching reinvention of tax.

Geoff Mulgan is director of Demos, the new independent think tank, and Robin Murray is Fellow of the IDS at the University of Sussex. Copies of the first Demos pamphlet are available at £5.95 from Demos, 120 Wilton Road, SW1.



Taxing times: the community charge provoked heart-felt protests

Whitehall reforms 'will erode democracy'

By MICHAEL DYNES
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

WHITEHALL'S managerial revolution will lead to an alarming erosion of democracy without sweeping changes needed to modernise the country's antiquated constitution, a constitutional expert says today.

Traditional notions of ministerial responsibility, civil service impartiality and democratic accountability must be redefined to reflect the changing nature of government, Vernon Bogdanor, a Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford,

will say in the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies annual lecture in London.

The lecture will take William Waldegrave, the public service minister, to task for insisting that Whitehall can be reformed by introducing modern business practices without any accompanying constitutional change.

The Whitehall revolution, including the creation of Next Steps semi-autonomous agencies, market-testing government services against private sector suppliers, and contracting out large blocks of government work will "require

constitutional change if they are to be effective", Mr Bogdanor will say.

The long-established doctrine of ministerial responsibility, under which ministers take the blame for mistakes in their departments, "is under serious threat from the growth of executive agencies under the Next Steps programme", Mr Bogdanor says.

The Next Steps initiative is effectively devolving power away from Whitehall departments to agency chief executives who are, in theory, accountable to Parliament through their ministers. In-

creasingly, however, agency staff are taking decisions which are not being referred upwards to ministers, Mr Bogdanor says. Consequently, ministers cannot realistically be held responsible for the day-to-day functions of the agencies if more and more decisions are removed from ministerial scrutiny and oversight.

Mr Bogdanor says: "If Next Steps succeeds in devolving power to autonomous agencies, ministerial responsibility to Parliament for the operational work of the agencies is bound to be weakened." The

programme is also threatening to undermine the integrity of the civil service, Mr Bogdanor will say. From next April, all agencies with more than 2,000 staff will be responsible for pay and conditions delegated to the chief executive.

As a result, Mr Bogdanor says, "we seem to be in the process of developing a two-tier civil service, a small core (of policy makers) with job security and career prospects, and a periphery (agencies) comprising positions filled by public advertisement and with a wide range of conditions of employment."

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TICKET

■ This is the complete list of government following the reshuffle by John Major, the prime minister, on May 27, 1993

THE CABINET

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service Lord Chancellor	John Major
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Chancellor of the Exchequer Home Secretary President of the Board of Trade	Lord Mackay of Clashfern Douglas Hurd Kenneth Clarke Michael Howard Michael Heseltine
Secretary of State for Transport Secretary of State for Defence Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords Lord President of the Council and Leader of the Commons Secretary of State for the Environment Secretary of State for National Heritage Secretary of State for Employment and Cabinet minister responsible for women's issues Secretary of State for Social Security Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Citizen's Charter Secretary of State for Scotland Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Secretary of State for Education Secretary of State for Health Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Chief Secretary to the Treasury Secretary of State for Wales	John MacGregor Malcolm Rifkind Lord Wakeham Tony Newton John Gummer Peter Brooke David Hunt Peter Lilley William Waldegrave Ian Lang Sir Patrick Mayhew John Patten Virginia Bottomley Gillian Shephard Michael Portillo John Redwood

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND MINISTERS

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Minister Minister of State Parliamentary Secretaries	Gillian Shephard Michael Jack Earl Howe Nicholas Soames
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Public Service and Science Parliamentary Secretary	William Waldegrave David Davis
Defence Secretary of State Minister of State for the Armed Forces Minister of State for Defence Procurement Under Secretary of State	Malcolm Rifkind Jeremy Hanley Jonathan Aitken Lord Cecil of Essenden
Education Secretary of State Minister of State Under Secretaries of State	John Patten Baroness Blatch Eric Forth Timothy Boswell Robin Squire

Complete list of government



New boy: John Redwood, Welsh secretary, is the only new member of the cabinet. He entered Parliament in 1987

Employment Secretary of State Minister of State Under Secretaries of State	David Hunt Michael Forsyth Ann Widdecombe Viscount Ullswater
Environment Secretary of State Ministers of State	John Gummer David Curry Timothy Yeo Sir George Young
Minister for Housing and Planning Under Secretaries of State	Tony Baldry Lord Strathclyde
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Secretary of State Minister for Overseas Development Ministers of State	Douglas Hurd Baroness Chalker of Wallasey Douglas Hogg David Heathcoat-Amory Alastair Goodlad Mark Lennox-Boyd
Under Secretary of State	
Health Secretary of State Minister for Health Under Secretaries of State	Virginia Bottomley Brian Mawhinney Tom Sackville Baroness Cumberlege John Bowis
Home Office Secretary of State Ministers of State	Michael Howard Peter Lloyd David Maclean Earl Ferrers Charles Wardle
Under Secretary of State	
Law Officers Attorney-general Solicitor-general Lord Advocate Solicitor General for Scotland	Sir Nicholas Lyell Sir Derek Spencer Lord Rodger of Earlsferry Thomas Dawson
Lord Chancellor's Department Lord Chancellor Parliamentary Secretary	Lord Mackay of Clashfern John Taylor
National Heritage Secretary of State Under Secretary of State	Peter Brooke Iain Sproat
Northern Ireland Office Secretary of State Ministers of State Under Secretary of State	Sir Patrick Mayhew Michael Mates Robert Atkins Michael Ancram The Earl of Arran
Privy Council Office Lord President of the Council and Leader of the Commons Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords	Tony Newton Lord Wakeham
Scottish Office Secretary of State Minister of State Under Secretaries of State	Ian Lang Lord Fraser of Carmyllie Lord James Douglas-Hamilton Allan Stewart Sir Hector Monro
Social Security Secretary of State	Peter Lilley
Minister for Social Security and Disabled People Under Secretaries of State	Nicholas Scott Alistair Burt William Hague Lord Henley
Trade and Industry President of the Board of Trade (Secretary of State for Trade and Industry) Minister for Industry Minister for Trade Minister for Energy Under Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs and Small Firms Under Secretary of State for Corporate Affairs Under Secretary of State	Michael Heseltine Tim Sainsbury Richard Needham Tim Eggar Baroness Denton of Wakefield Neil Hamilton Patrick McLoughlin
Transport Secretary of State Minister for Aviation and Shipping Minister for Public Transport Minister for Roads and Traffic Minister for Transport in London	John MacGregor The Earl of Calthness Roger Freeman Robert Key Steven Norris
Treasury Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service Chancellor of the Exchequer Chief Secretary Financial Secretary Paymaster General Economic Secretary	John Major Kenneth Clarke Michael Portillo Stephen Dorrell Sir John Cope Anthony Nelson
Welsh Office Secretary of State Minister of State Under Secretary of State	John Redwood Sir Wyn Roberts Gwilym Jones
Whips House of Commons Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury (Government Chief Whip) Treasurer of Her Majesty's Household (Deputy Chief Whip) Comptroller of the Household Vice Chamberlain Lords Commissioners	Richard Ryder Greg Knight David Lighthown Sydney Chapman Irvine Patrick Nicholas Baker Timothy Wood Timothy Kirkhope Andrew MacKay Robert Hughes James Arbuthnot Andrew Mitchell Michael Brown Derek Conway
Assistant whips	
House of Lords Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms (Government Chief Whip) Captain, Yeomen of the Guard (Deputy Chief Whip) Lords in Waiting (Whips)	Lord Hesket The Earl of Straffmore and Kinghorne Viscount Long Viscount Astor Baroness Trumpington Viscount St Davids Viscount Goschen
Second Church Estates Commissioner, representing Church Commissioners	Michael Allison

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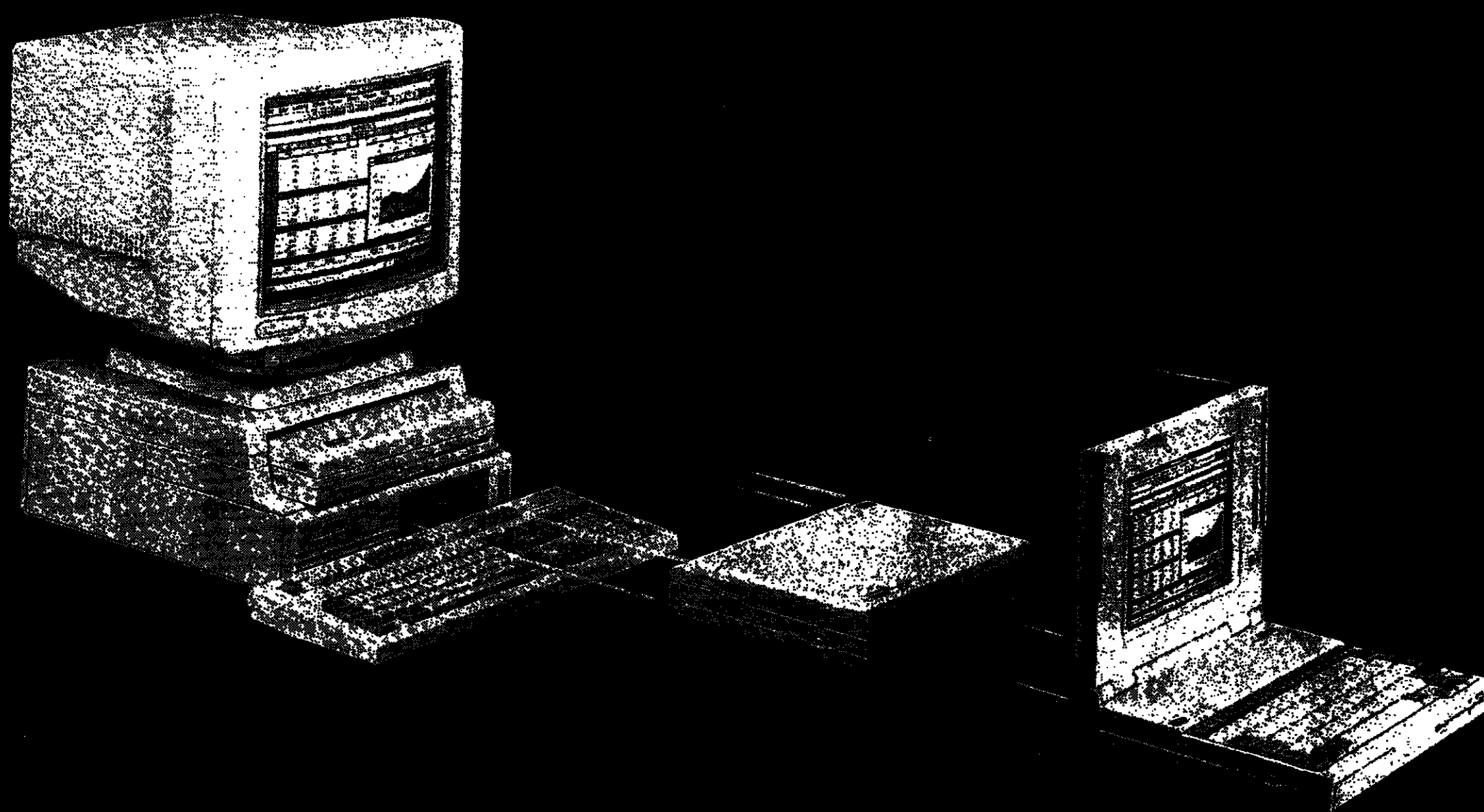
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United Nations plagued by doubts over the use of force and cash restraints as it strives to impose Peace for all nations may prove a goal beyond reach

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Boutros Ghali: has found it difficult to hide his frustration

CIVILIANS screamed in terror in Mogadishu yesterday as they were cut down by the bullets of troops representing the United Nations, an organisation supposedly synonymous with peace.

On another continent, countless thousands of men, women and children spent a gruesome day under bombardment in Bosnia-Herzegovina as UN forces there began to contemplate the unthinkable — that they might have to admit failure and leave the victims of the war there to their fate.

The international community's good intentions are now in danger of being seen as paving the road to hell in Somalia, Bosnia and, to a lesser extent, Cambodia. UN-sanctioned campaigns to reduce human suffering and to right wrongs across the globe are increasingly criticised as at best ineffective and at worst doing more harm than good. Resonant-hit governments also complain ever more bitterly about the phenomenal cost of

peacekeeping exercises and punitive raids on the likes of General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the Somali warlord, and Iraq's President Saddam Hussein.

The collapse of communism and the West's initial euphoria at the outcome of the Gulf war gave birth to an international belief that localised squabbles could be easily resolved. The viciousness and the feudal and tribal nature of the world's current troublespots, however, have caught the world, particularly the West, by surprise.

Perhaps the international community expects too much from UN-blessed missions to try to cure the world's ills. Michael Banks, Reader in International Relations at the London School of Economics, says: "It depends what yardstick you use. If you start from the assumption that you are looking for perfection, you are bound to regard any outcome as failure. If you think saving the life of one child in Bosnia is good, then that is

success. The reality lies somewhere between the two.

"I am optimistic that we have a better knowledge of what is needed in international relations than at any time before. It is marvellous. We know we need global institutions in some democratic form and we have seen the spread of liberal democracy encouraged by the backing of free market economics. Compare that with what the world did in the face of Stalin and Hitler."

The UN, however, needs to work in association with other world bodies, such as Nato, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Western European Union (WEU). Mr Banks believes, adding: "Nato can really only work if it has an enemy. Soldiers work with extraordinarily dangerous weapons and are trained to do dreadful things. They obey orders, but they know clearly what those orders are and there seems some confusion on this in Bosnia, for instance."

Nonetheless, mistakes have

been made. In Somalia, aid workers complain that American-led intervention there has made their job of delivering food and medicine more difficult and dangerous. The ad hoc arrangements the aid agencies had with the main warlords to allow aid through and ensure the helpers' safety have been destroyed. America also committed serious errors in announcing their arrival in advance, so giving the Somali chiefs time to hide their weapons, and by failing to plan and effect the disarmament of the warring factions.

Yesterday's killing of Somali demonstrators by Pakistani UN troops was sharply criticised as "monstrous" by Rony Brauman, president of Médecins sans Frontières. "We are asking troops of very different characters to maintain order, which is certainly very difficult for soldiers," he said in Paris. The charity's doctors took some of the wounded to hospital minutes after the killings.

Even Boutros Boutros Ghali, the

UN secretary-general, has found it difficult at times to hide his frustration. He provoked anger among European and US diplomats last year when he suggested that too much time and effort was being spent on Bosnia at the expense of such Third World troublespots as Somalia.

In Bosnia, the premature recognition of Croatia and other former Yugoslav republics opened an inglorious chapter of diplomatic bumbling. More than a year of intense searches for peace has led to too few peacekeepers being placed on the ground too late to be of more than cosmetic help in reducing suffering. The world's wrangling over how to cope with what may be a problem with no solution has also sent a dangerous signal to those who are bent on mischief in the world's other troublespots — that they may be able to act with impunity.

In Cambodia, the UN was forced to withdraw all non-essential personnel from three key provinces at the weekend after

Prince Norodom Chakrapong, a son of Prince Sihanouk, declared a third of the country's 21 provinces autonomous and demanded that all UN staff leave. Prince Chakrapong acted after complaining about irregularities in last month's general election, which his party lost.

The cost of policing the world's upheavals is also causing serious unease among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council: Britain, France, America, Russia and China. The five paid just more than half the \$1.85 billion cost of peacekeeping last year, and the UN has begun to pull out of the Kurdish areas of Iraq because nobody is prepared to pay for the operation there.

In Somalia, "Operation Restore Hope" has so far cost America \$750 million (\$490 million), and Washington is to pay a third of the estimated \$1.5 billion needed for the new peacekeeping campaign there.

Leading article, page 17

Shooting of civilian protesters arouses Mogadishu's anger

FROM SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, IN MOGADISHU AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

OPERATION Continue hope, the United Nations military campaign against Somalia's principal warlord, began on Saturday night with precision bombing by invisible planes which sickly destroyed many of his most strategically important positions. Yesterday it was marked by what may become known as the first massacre of civilians by UN soldiers.

The shooting of at least 20 people, many of them women and children, by Pakistani soldiers who were nervous and vengeful after the killing on June 5 of 25 of their comrades, has shown that attitudes against Somalia's military will have to be won on the ground — and in the hearts of the Somalis themselves. So far the UN has won neither the battle for control of Mogadishu's streets, nor the ears and minds of its people.

Even those who hated General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, had blamed him for prolonging Somalia's civil war last year, and accused him of unending protection rackets, or have only contempt for the UN. Ahmed Muhammad Aden, who saw the Pakistani UN troops open fire on the crowd of up to 5,000, said: "I welcomed the foreign troops when they came because I thought they would bring peace. We will not tolerate this sort of action. They want us to live up to our guns, and then they have a peaceful demonstration they kill our wives and babies. The UN is just behaving like another man of murderers."

Before dawn yesterday the Mogadishu skyline had been addled by exploding 105mm

howitzer shells fired from high-flying AC130 Hercules aircraft into a garage near General Aidid's residence. United Nations military spokesmen, all of them American, said that the garage contained 30 "technicals" (battle wagons) as well as ammunition for 20mm and 40mm guns. But during an inspection of the site as daylight broke, the only ammunition found by independent observers was the remains of an American shell. The only "technicals" in evidence did not have gun mounts, as the spokesmen had claimed. It is more likely that the bombardment of the garage, which certainly would have been a

big logistical asset for General Aidid, was intended to intimidate him into giving himself up to the UN authorities. But after the killing of civilians at K4, Mogadishu's main roundabout, that looks a distant prospect.

When General Aidid visited the wounded in Benadir hospital, a mile from the roundabout of K4 where Somalis fell to the high velocity .762 bullets, he said he would never give in. "I shall suffer with my people," he said.

Since the killings of the Pakistanis last weekend, aides say that General Aidid has remained in his house or has publicly travelled round the capital. But UN military officials said that they did not know his whereabouts. In Washington last night, American senators said that the shooting of civilian protesters in Mogadishu would erode

American popular support for the continued involvement of American troops and had to stop. Robert Dole, the Senate Republican minority leader, said that support was already "on the margins" and issued a warning that unless the killing of innocent people stopped "people are not going to support this much longer". Max Baucus, a senior Montana Democrat, called the Pakistanis' reaction to the demonstrations outrageous.

Senators were also concerned that the American-led attacks on the forces of General Aidid would make it still harder for American troops to leave. The military operations demonstrated the UN peacekeeping operation's dependency on American firepower. Moreover, Somali hostility towards the UN operation and the relief workers it is protecting appeared to have grown, not diminished, as a result of the attacks.

The assaults provoked angry street protests, not celebrations, and the Pakistanis' reaction inflamed Somali anger against what a spokesman for General Aidid called an "occupying force".

If the tension in Mogadishu persists, a flotilla of four American warships that is carrying a 2,000-strong marine assault force and which is on stand-by in the Gulf is likely to be ordered to Somalia. "Does this mean that we're stuck?" one senior American army officer asked of the weekend's operations. "Well, yeah, for a while. And if it turns sour, then you have a choice. Cut your losses, or press on."

The deadly toll, page 1



Retaliatory strike: Pakistani UN soldiers escort a Somali prisoner who was allegedly caught with a grenade near their Mogadishu headquarters

Prince vows to take back losers' breakaway zone

FROM SHIRIA MCNULTY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS IN PHNOM PENH

PRINCE Norodom Ranariddh, the leader of Funcinpec, which won last month's Cambodian elections, said yesterday he had ordered his soldiers to prepare to retake an "autonomous zone" established by the losers.

The secessionist movement is led by Prince Ranariddh's half-brother, Prince Norodom Chakrapong, deputy prime minister of the Vietnamese-installed government that lost the United Nations-organised election by a slim margin. Prince Chakrapong claimed the polling was fraught with irregularities and refused to honour the results, which have been recognised by the United Nations.

Violence was reported to have erupted in the "autonomous zone" of seven eastern provinces across 40 per cent of Cambodia. The UN said the secessionist violated international law and demanded that the government rein in the renegade forces, which

have ordered all members of Funcinpec and UN peacekeepers to withdraw from the zone. A government spokesman, however, insisted the administration had lost control over the secessionists.

"We are ready to set up our own forces to fight and liberate that part of Cambodia," Prince Ranariddh said. "We are not going to accept any partition of Cambodia. Cambodia is small enough."

The UN mission said last night that it had withdrawn some non-essential staff from three provinces in the zone, citing "specific threats" against a number of personnel. It said UN troops and police, however, would stay at their posts.

Funcinpec members said yesterday that renegade government soldiers have shot their colleagues, burnt their offices and forced more

than 1,000 to flee to Phnom Penh from the seven provinces of Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Monduliri, Ratanakiri, Stung Treng and Kratie. "Our Funcinpec workers and supporters had to run away for their lives or they would be shot," said Ken Savut, who fled from Prey Veng. "The shooting is real. Members of the smaller Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party were also threatened."

Yasushi Akashi, the UN chief in Phnom Penh, said he would hold the government responsible for any attempts by its renegade forces to carry out threats against opposition parties. "Any attempt to deprive the Cambodian people of their stated desire for national reconciliation and democracy, in any part of the country, would be unacceptable to the international community and to the Cambodian people," Mr Akashi said.

Argentine troops may join British in island patrol

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ELEVEN years after the Falklands war, Argentine forces could soon be deployed alongside British troops to keep the peace in Cyprus.

Diplomats and senior United Nations officials say Oscar Camillón, Argentina's new defence minister, is considering a request to send peacekeepers to Cyprus to replace the 500 Canadians who are pulling out. Señor Camillón was the UN's special envoy in Cyprus until March.

The Canadian withdrawal will leave only British and Austrian troops patrolling the 115-mile-long, island-wide buffer between Greek and Turkish-occupied Cyprus. The UN has for several months been trying to find new peacekeepers for the debt-ridden Cyprus for 29 years.

The force has been cut by more than half in less than a year as the overstretched UN poured forces into its more urgent operations in Bosnia, Somalia and Cambodia. "If the Argentines do come, they probably won't be positioned alongside the British. Maybe the Austrians will come between them," a senior UN source said.

In New York on Saturday, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said that talks between the leaders of the Turkish and Greek communities on the island, which had been scheduled to resume today had been postponed. In a statement, his spokesman said the secretary-general had been informed by Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, that he would not be able to attend.

According to the statement, Dr Boutros Ghali "regrets very much that Mr Denktaş has unilaterally departed from the agreement of June 1 (to resume the talks on Monday), and that, as a consequence, the joint meetings will not resume

at UN headquarters as planned."

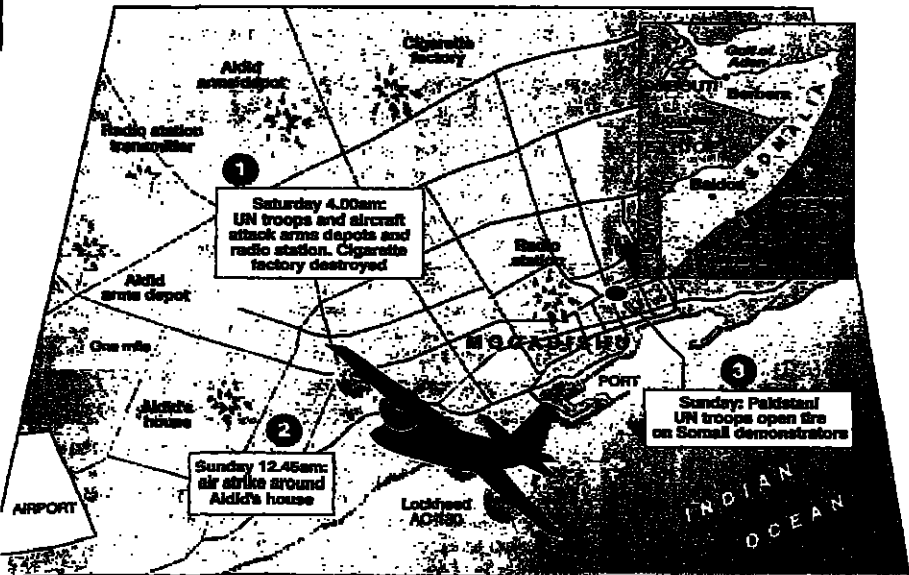
President Clerides of Cyprus and Mr Denktaş began a new round of talks at UN headquarters last month at which they focused on measures designed to bolster confidence between the island's rival communities. On June 1 the talks were adjourned until today to enable Mr Denktaş to consult with Turkey and colleagues in Cyprus.

Despite its manpower shortage, the UN on Friday unanimously approved a six-month renewal of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus until December 15. The security council resolution also ex-

posed recent recommendations by Dr Boutros Ghali for the Greek and Turkish Cypriots to help reduce tensions by deploying only hand-held weapons along the ceasefire lines and prohibiting firing within sight or hearing of the island's buffer zone.

When the Canadians withdraw from the peacekeeping force, British "blue berets" will leave their present spartan barracks at St David's camp and, after nearly 30 years in the wilderness, move into the Ledra Palace hotel, which straddles the "green line" dividing Nicosia. The five-star establishment is complete with a swimming pool and a bar that has been rated "the best in the world".

Officers hope it will be a temporary booking. Nicosia is the most sensitive and visible part of the buffer zone and Britain was reluctant to take it over when replacements could not be found for the Canadians. "To many here, where they have accused us of divide and rule, we could look like old colonialists," said a British officer.



Threats and jeers bode ill for conference harmony

FROM MATTHEW D'ANCONA IN VIENNA

WESTERN governments will struggle this week to defend the principle of universal humanitarian standards at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights which opens in Vienna today.

As the world ponders the issue of international intervention in Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and elsewhere, 10 governments have gathered to review the global rule book on the forty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The conference, the largest human rights assembly since the 1968 gathering in Tehran, has disruption from a group of developing countries led by China, Malaysia, Mexico,

Iraq and Burma challenging the hallowed principle of universality. The Malaysian delegation argues that "each country is entitled to its own perception of human rights".

British officials acknowledge that Western governments will have to devote as much effort to defending the record of the UN as to planning future human rights policy.

The exclusion of the Dalai Lama from the conference and the heckling of Jimmy Carter, the former American president, at a meeting on Saturday, have already undermined confidence in the conference. The Austrian government is expected to add to the confusion this morning by

proposing from the chair that the Tibetan leader be given a platform, a proposal which would probably end Chinese involvement in the assembly.

Although the universal declaration cannot be formally amended by the Vienna conference, the meeting's resolutions could pose a powerful challenge to the existing covenants of rights. Ibrahim Fall, secretary-general of the conference, said yesterday that he hoped it would be a turning point in the history of human rights. But it has not been possible to resolve inter-governmental conflict over a number of key issues, including the withholding of over-

seas aid to force compliance with human rights agreements, and the future of UN human rights institutions.

A strong attack is also expected to be mounted against Article 19 of the universal declaration on free speech. A draft statement for the conference implies that press freedom is conditional upon "objective, responsible and impartial" coverage, a formula reminiscent of the "New World Information and Communication Order" championed by Unesco in the 1970s. The debate may draw battle lines between the northern and southern hemispheres. The conference will also be a

test of Russia's determination to be taken seriously as a champion of the rule of law, and of President Clinton's commitment to human rights, which he promised would be the basis of his foreign policy.

The American government, represented by Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, will push for a toughening of the discredited UN mechanisms which enforce human rights. But British officials expect little more than a commitment to pour extra resources into the Geneva-based UN human rights centre, which absorbs only 1 per cent of the UN budget and has a smaller staff than Amnesty International. Calls for the appointment of a UN special commissioner for hu-

man rights are regarded as over-ambitious at this stage.

The assembly has been organised around themes such as torture, disappearances and the rights of women, but the loose agenda is likely to invite diversions on former Yugoslavia, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Kashmir. Non-governmental organisations are expected to criticise the bland 48-page draft declaration, which Pierre Stéine, secretary-general of Amnesty International, has described as a "slap in the face of humanity". With NGOs being admitted to the plenary sessions for the first time in the UN's history, there is a risk that Vienna will be a chaotic echo of last year's environment conference in Rio.

the requirements of justice and humanity on a world increasingly bedevilled by the torments of war

Serb shelling 'kills 50 patients and staff in hospital'

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND ADAM LEBOR

SERB shells slaughtered more than 50 patients and medical staff at a makeshift hospital in Gorazde yesterday, according to radio reports from the town, which has been designated a "safe area" by the United Nations. Serb forces were last night closing in on the town, the last Muslim-held stronghold in the region, after an onslaught which has cost hundreds of lives.

No one survived the direct hit on the hospital building, Sarajevo Radio said. "Pieces of human bodies are mixed with cement, broken boards, bricks and mortar," the radio quoted the radio hams as saying. The toll, if confirmed, is one of the highest in a single incident since war broke out in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Up to 70,000 residents and refugees are besieged in Gorazde, which has been cut off for months and under fierce attack for 17 days. Bosnian Serb leaders have refused to allow UN monitors into the town. Sarajevo radio reported that Serb forces had breached Gorazde's defence lines and hand-to-hand fighting at the villages of Borovac and Gornja Glavica, and were advancing.

Officials of the Muslim-led Bosnian government last night urged President Izetbegovic to return immediately from Geneva, where he was meeting Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the peace mediators.

As Gorazde's plight worsened, the first 78 vehicles from the battered Convoy of Joy reached their target, the north-eastern town of Tuzla. The convoy left Grude, in south-west Bosnia on June 4 with 503 vehicles, but came under fierce attack by Bosnian Croat forces, who killed at least nine of the civilian drivers. The UN

protection force said it had counted 250 lorries that had survived the attacks.

Fighting also surged in Sarajevo yesterday, and the airport, an aid lifeline for the Bosnian capital's 380,000 population, was closed after shells exploded at both ends of the runway.

The latest fighting is a new rebuff for General Philippe Morillon, the UN commander in Bosnia, who said on Saturday that the former Yugoslav republic was sliding into "a state of total anarchy". He said: "If they want to fight to the death, we have nothing to do here. If there is no will for peace, we will have to withdraw. I've never felt that we were so close to catastrophe."

The meeting in Geneva between Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg and Mr Izetbegovic was aimed at renewing diplomatic efforts to end the slaughter in Bosnia. "One of the main tasks is to get an alleviation of the fighting in the central Bosnia between the Muslims and the Croats but the essential task is still the overall peace settlement," Lord Owen said.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, arrived in Athens at the weekend for a Greek-Serbian friendship rally today and talks with Greek leaders. Dr Karadzic was scheduled to meet Andreas Papandreu, the main opposition leader, last night and is expected to meet Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, today. Greece is the only Western nation that maintains close ties with Serbia following the break-up of the former Yugoslavia.

The relief effort is on the verge of collapse after a special

appeal for funds raised just over \$100 million of the \$400 million initially asked for. UN aid officials in Belgrade said. More than one million people in Bosnia, Serbia and Montenegro are fed from the relief operation in the Serbian capital, but food warehouses are almost empty and stocks are barely sufficient to meet a quarter of refugee needs. "The world has got hardened to the sight of crying women," a UN spokeswoman said.

Health workers also fear that epidemics, triggered by hot weather and destroyed sewage systems, are set to erupt over Bosnia. The artillery barrages that have blown houses to pieces have also shattered drainage.

British alert, page 1
Lynne Truss, page 14
Letters, page 17



Young protester: a mother shows off her son's T-shirt condemning the atrocities in Bosnia at a press conference given by the Society for Engangered Peoples in Vienna yesterday, the eve of the World Conference on Human Rights

MOZAMBIQUE

The biggest repatriation exercise in UN history has started with the first group of 140,000 Mozambicans returning from exile in neighbouring Zimbabwe. Four buses belonging to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees crossed the border, at Machipanda. About 1.3 million people are to be repatriated. (AFP)

ARMENIA

Azerbaijan's parliament yesterday accepted the resignation of Isa Gambarov, its chairman, who was quoted as saying he was stepping down "for the sake of civic accord". Azerbaijan is under attack from armed rebels and Armenia. Geidar Aliyev, the former Communist boss, is tipped to succeed him. (Reuters)

RWANDA

Large amounts of UN food aid for refugees in Rwanda were sold on the black market as part of a fraud by local Red Cross workers, according to a parliamentary enquiry. MPs in Kigali, the capital, are demanding that those responsible for the thefts be punished. (Reuters)

Clinton turned down US plan for air strikes

America no longer believes it can bring about a solution to the Balkan conflict, Frank Murray writes. Instead it is pursuing a policy of "little victories"

A TOP White House official has revealed that President Clinton nearly asked the United Nations to authorise air strikes on Serbian targets in Bosnia despite strong European opposition.

Mr Clinton turned down a plan drawn up by senior advisers to take unilateral action at the UN on air strikes. Such a move would have embarrassed Allied leaders who opposed his Bosnia plan last month and rebuffed Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, during his mission to Europe to encourage Allied intervention.

"Christopher came back and the issue was do we roll them and just say 'OK, by God, we're going to the UN. We're going to introduce a resolution. Veto it if you will,'" the official told reporters for six leading American newspapers at the White House on condition he was not named.

He described the US strategy now as a realistic one of "little victories" with no expectation of resolving the conflict. "The Balkans are the Balkans," he said with resignation.

He said European leaders called him at the White House after the visit by Mr Christopher and argued that their reluctance to support air strikes was based on domestic political concerns. He said they pleaded that there be no destructive public recriminations.

"We concluded that then was not the moment to bring this into a crisis. It was already turning into a transatlantic scrap."

The contention from Europe that Mr Christopher never put forth a plan, but only asked questions, has been denied by American officials. However, a former Bush administration White House official said his sources contradict that view. He castigated the Clinton team for advocat-



Clinton: decided not to embarrass allies

ing military action during the presidential campaign and for blaming his decision not to follow through after the election on European reluctance.

"That's really tying the can to the Europeans' tail and saying 'You guys are a bunch of cowards.' That's no way to treat a bunch of close allies," he said.

The high-ranking Clinton adviser argued that the president did his best and won agreement from London, Bonn, Paris and Moscow not to challenge Washington's plan to lift the arms embargo.

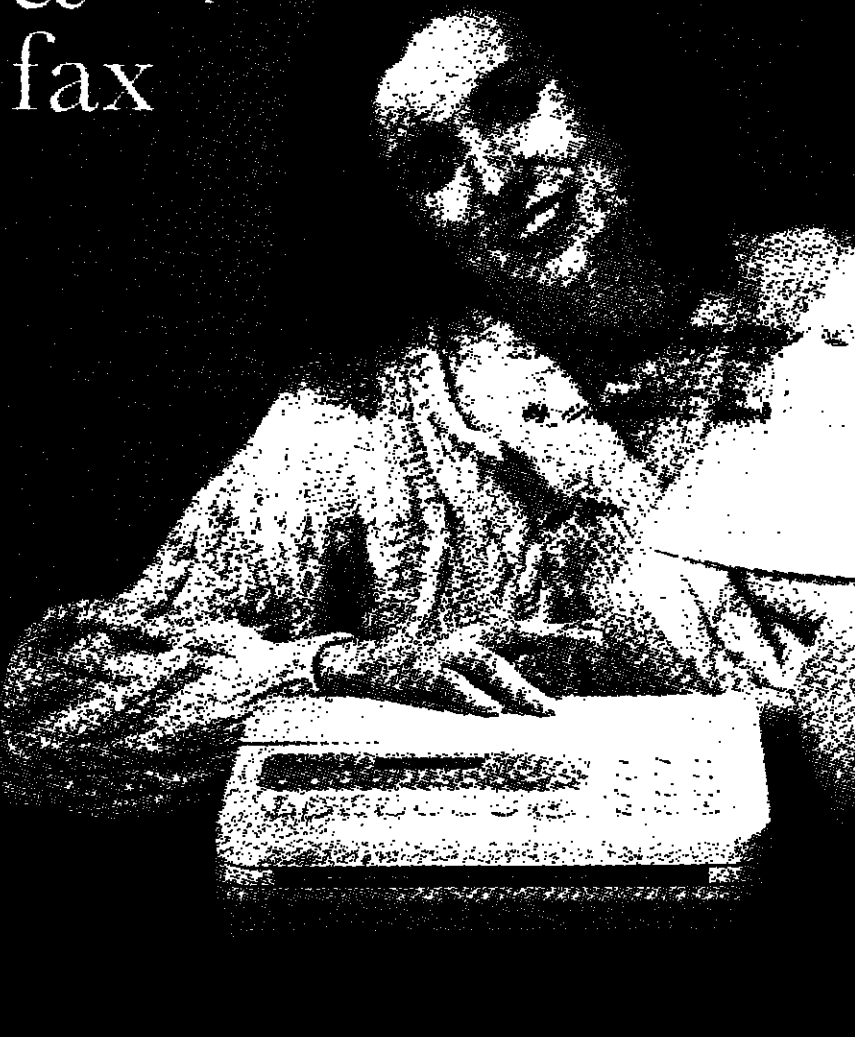
"We decided that the best policy was lifting the arms embargo for a limited period, with associated air strikes if necessary. And we tried to sell that to the Europeans and we didn't make the sale," he said.

He added that when the Serbs finally signed the Vance-Owen plan last month, Europeans saw that as an escape from the "need to do stronger things."

"Suddenly there's an easier alternative. That made it a very, very tough sell; indeed, an impossible one."

Frank Murray is White House correspondent of The Washington Times.

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Danger can evoke primal passions on the battlefield, but there are likely to be casualties at home

Lovers and louses in the war zone

Love among the ruins ... something about a war zone that breeds romance ... Danger is stimulating, even arousing.

In the midst of unspeakable horror and death, the drive to reaffirm life ... Life is too short to waste a moment ... Now where have you heard all that before? Do memories of Ernest Hemingway stir, perhaps? Or was it the bit in *The Nurse* Story, where nun and doctor are thrown together in the fever hospital? Or was it (sorry, cheap) one of Gertrude Hayer's sagas of girls dressed as boys fleeing in post-chores? Try some more: "War is a fiery crucible which heats all normal human emotions to a pitch of passion ... You've got it. Those phrases rang out anew, if not afresh, this weekend in an apologetic for war-zone romance by the television producer Tess Stimson. She fell in love with the (married) television correspondent Brent Sadler in Somalia and Beirut, and

has lately been photographed with him back in the peace zone, lying in a hammock talking of their love and promoting a book. Here, she was explaining why two senior British officers in the former Yugoslavia seem to have hurried to the front and wives to the winds in favour of battlefield romance. The wife of Colonel Bob Stewart has reputedly sold her wedding and engagement rings and may not join too keenly in the national applause for the hero's DSO in the birthday honours. Meanwhile, another British colonel is reported to have quit his job to rebuild a bombed orphanage with a Croatian woman doctor friend. Put it all down, Ms Stimson says, to the "primal emotions" evoked by war or famine. "When anyone witnesses human suffering

on such a grand scale, life is reduced to the most basic and essential of human emotions. Anything in between seems irrelevant. It is difficult to understand this if you have never experienced it." Hmm. Up to a point. As anyone knows who has dealt with a returning soldier, war correspondent, photographer or medic, the emotional heightening brought on by their experiences is as real an affliction as a bout of malaria. There is no point welcoming these safari-jacketed creatures back as if they had been at a sales conference in Eastbourne. They need to come down gradually, talk when they want to, shut themselves away to write about it, and not be bothered by decisions about children or houses. To behave, in short, with invalidish selfishness. They are

copied with excitement, lendown, guilt at being alive, and a deeper moral bewilderment at the evil they have seen. They need very skilful and tolerant spouses. A few, mainly women, have had the honesty to realise that if they plan to live at this pitch for long the decent thing is not to marry at all. Certainly not to beget children.



LIBBY PURVES

Conscript soldiers, and people who actually live in disaster zones, have no choice: those who seek out these things as careers, do. Moreover, anyone who has worked in any intense situation — from a hospital to the artificially over-excited fields of theatre, newspapers, media and hot commerce — knows perfectly well that it is only human to fall in love with your colleagues. Energy attracts. It is a heady thing to work alongside a personable, talented friend at full stretch: many a burning glance has been exchanged across an election-night studio, and many a spouse has quietly given up hope during a staff party. (All those jokes and bright tough women, said one to me sadly. "And I was just a little wife up from Bromley with Farex on my skirt ...") Add

the spice of real danger and, as Ms Stimson smugly explains: "The dull comfort and stability of a long-lasting marriage may be compared to the intense passion of wartime love, and found wanting." Again, humm. Never mind the rival claims of intensity involved in bearing children and being home alone through illness and accident; never mind the current newsworthy cases, because every marriage has its own pathology and cannot be judged from outside. I take issue only with Ms Stimson's implicit subtext: that to understand all is to forgive all. A brief, half-crazy, regretted affair is one thing. To extend this into full-time desertion, the confusion of children and the humiliation of a long-serving wife is something else. Just because you have seen brutal

soldiers doing terrible physical wrongs to women and children, you are not automatically entitled to strut around on some Hemingwayesque moral high-ground while you do terrible emotional wrongs to your own family. A selfish louse who has worked in a war zone is still a selfish louse. Service families have always had a clear-eyed wariness of war-zone romance. This is why navy wives didn't want Wrens to go to sea. I disagreed with them at the time, arguing that intelligent career Wrens would never be such damn fools as to sleep with shipmates: I was not, alas, entirely right. But I would still like to see the principle upheld and the attempt made. All one can do is hope that the majority of men and women, however primal their emotions at the time, will continue to see the difference between a fiery crucible and a cowardly excuse.

English must be saved

As the battle rages over the teaching of literature, P.D. James helps to launch a crusade for the classics

That all is not well with the teaching of English is beyond dispute. We are used to hearing that we have in our language and literature, both classical and modern, an incomparable treasure which has enriched not only this country but the world, and which immensely enhances our reputation and influence abroad. And for our children English is the bedrock on which all other learning rests.

Unless the young can use language effectively, both to express their own minds and to understand the minds of others, it is difficult to see how we can have a vigorous democracy in which ideas and policies can be intelligently presented, considered and criticised or achieve that understanding with other countries which nations enjoy through access to each other's language and literature.

This aspect becomes increasingly important as English develops as an international language, although this universal use has disadvantages as well as advantages.

Because English is spoken and written in so many forms for a variety of purposes throughout the world it is surely important that English in its highest form should be taught, spoken and valued in this country. Yet few would deny that standards of written and spoken English are in decline among all sections of the community and that we are in real danger of becoming an illiterate society.

But what do we mean by English in its highest form? What do we mean by Standard English — and how best should it be taught? Are there writers of such genius that their work should be part of every young person's literary experience, and if so, how should they be selected and at what age should children be introduced to this literary heritage?

All these, no doubt, are questions which will be addressed by a seminar on the teaching of English in schools under the heading "Passing on the Word", which will take place on June 26. The seminar, organised by the Royal Society of Literature, will bring together academics, teachers, writers and the public in what it is hoped will be a lively and

fruitful exchange of ideas. The society brings to the conference no preconceptions apart from its conviction of the importance of the subject and its awareness that all is not well with the teaching of language and literature in our schools.

We shall no doubt all bring our own opinions and some prejudices to the seminar. Mine are inevitably influenced by my own education at a local authority girls' high school in Cambridge before the war. The "A" stream of which I was part was composed mainly of scholarship girls, the majority of us from far-from-wealthy homes, but it never occurred to any of our teachers that we could not appreciate and enjoy Shakespeare, that the great poets and novelists were not relevant to our lives, that to encourage us to speak Standard English and develop our vocabulary and writing skills were elitist, or that the English syllabus with its emphasis on the classics might be weighed by too many dead, middle-class, white males.

We also had the inestimable advantage of beginning each school day with an act of worship which included a reading from the King James Bible which, with the Book of Common Prayer, has had more influence on our language, literature, history and culture than any other book, but which today a majority of our children will never encounter. I doubt whether either book forms part of any A-level syllabus today. I can imagine with what incredulity my English teachers would read the list of set books for the A-level course of certain examining bodies, amazed that this measure could really satisfy 17-year-olds, many of whom might wish to go on to study English at university.

I wonder, too, what they would make of the Department for Education and Science's Anthology of English Literature issued in February, which John Carey (Merton Professor of English Literature, Oxford University) criticises in the society's journal. The selection would certainly have had little appeal for me as a 14-year-old. It manages in its 47 pages to condense English literature into 17 short poems, two brief extracts from

plays, four from fiction and two short stories, presumably in an attempt both to include those classical writers regarded as essential, and to find passages that might hold the interest of 13-year-olds with an attention-span dictated by television.

To quote Professor Carey: "To an outsider, the question all this prompts is — have things really come to this? Have the children in our schools so completely abandoned the habit of reading for pleasure, has their literacy been allowed to decline to such a degree that they must now be reintroduced to English in tiny portions set for 'study', and made the subject of tests, as if they were written in some

exceptionally taxing foreign language? That, alas, is exactly the state to which we have declined. Professor Carey rightly criticises the inclusion of Wordsworth's *Daffodils*. It was certainly my least favourite poem when I was a 14-year-old.

At that age the natural world held less interest for me than poems of action, danger and excitement and high, dramatic language, but I was also not inclined to lie on any couch in vacant or in pensive mood, and would no doubt have been swiftly reprimanded had I done so.

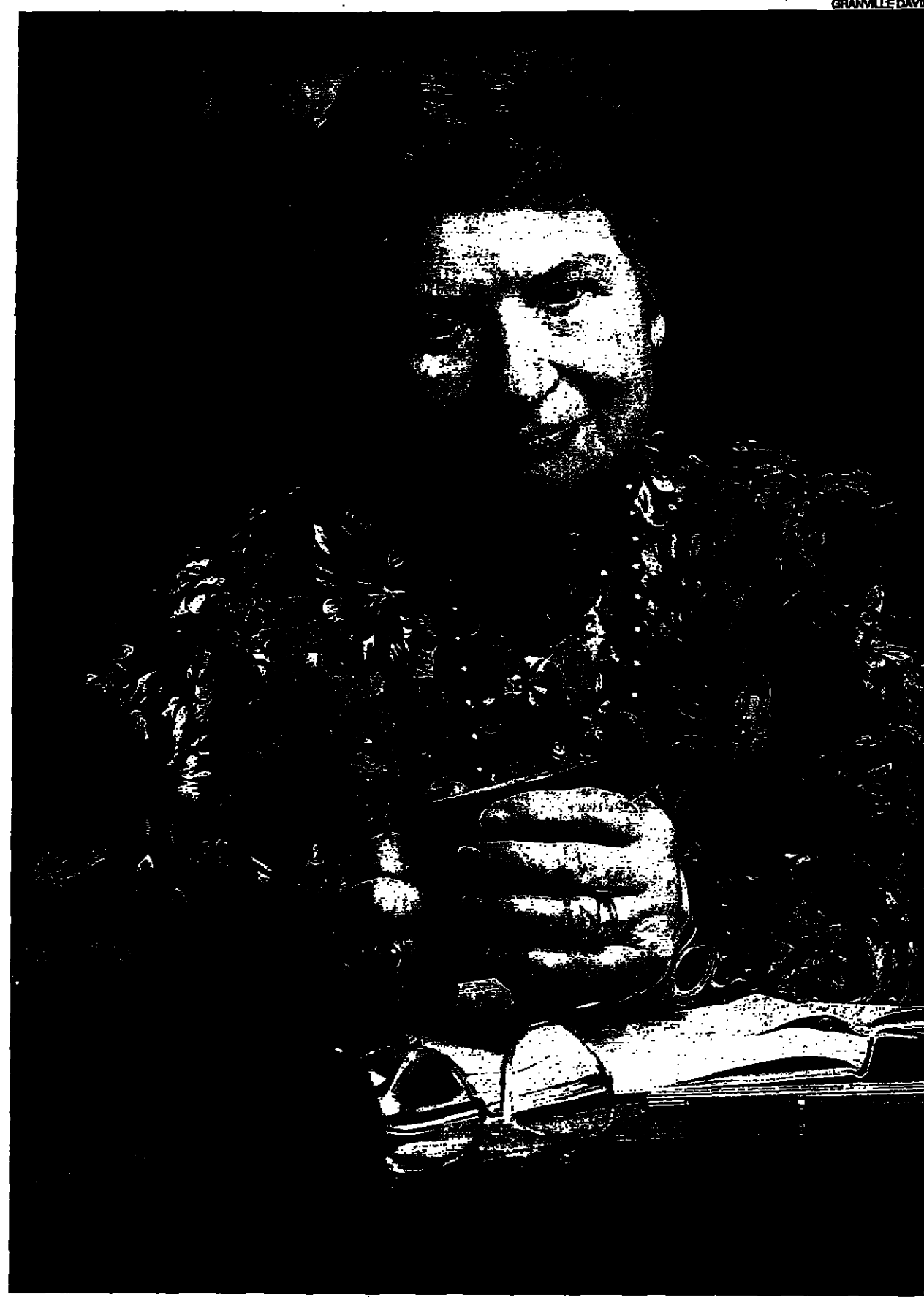
It would be stupid to pretend that every child can take

an equal pleasure in the great works of literature. But all children — except those with severe learning difficulties, as the new euphemism has it — can learn to speak their native language simply, plainly and with some elegance, and our literature is so rich and varied that there will be poems, plays and drama in which they can find delight if the choice is opened to them.

We cannot aspire to a "classless society", whatever that may mean, if some children are disadvantaged the moment they open their mouths, or if we arrogantly assume that only the young from certain backgrounds are capable of enjoying Shakespeare. Language and literature are

not static. They change, develop, grow from the past and feed on the past. If we simply cease to care, if we debate, abuse, neglect our language and our literature, the time will come when reading will be the pursuit of a privileged elite and we shall no longer produce books worth reading or have a language and literature worth preserving.

Tickets for the Passing on the Word conference, which runs from 9.30am to 5pm on June 26, are available from the Royal Society of Literature, 1 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2 2LT, price £20. John Carey, the education secretary, will be present. Speakers include Barbara Streisand of Holland Park, John Mortimer, John Carey, Brian Cox, Victoria Glendinning and James Fenton.



Warning: P.D. James says that standards of written and spoken English are declining across the community

Streisand is too saintly for words

When America needs spiritual reassurance, who better to turn to than the Venerable Barbra?

Lacking a god or even a Mother Teresa on a regular basis, America has just appointed Barbra Streisand to fill its spiritual and moral void. Thank heaven, readers, that you are not in the New World, being forced fawning, oleaginous copy and television time on the perfection of the nation's new saint.

Why, only this week, No Nonsense Pantyhose took a full-page advertisement in many magazines to announce that Barbra Streisand was the No Nonsense American Woman of the Month, June 1993. "To Barbra Streisand," went the nylon-manufacturer's prose, "the gifted performer, director, producer and actress whose extraordinary work has earned her a singularly powerful place and voice in the entertainment industry, proving that year after year, every year with Streisand is the Year of the Woman."

There is no indication from these pictures that anything significant is being said. Apparently Streisand's mere presence is credited by her fans for moving policy mountains.

Much has been written about the Hollywoodisation of the Clintons, and how undignified all this hobnobbing with Richard Gere et al looks to the public. Naturally, Streisand is leading the pack. How much she knows about politics is unclear. "I mean, I don't understand Bosnia. I wouldn't be so presumptuous," she said last month. "I only met with Clinton for, like, five minutes and it was only to ask him not to cut funding for AIDS research." At lunch in Washington's celebrated Citronelle restaurant with Ms Reno, they discussed "lots of things. Women's issues. Cooking." Ms Reno was taking notes.

What gives Ms Streisand clout is not her analysis of

'Once in a while, he or she uses the fame that comes with talent to transform the world itself'



Beatification: Streisand

If that failed to irritate sufficiently, consider the recent passage in the terminally hip *Interview* magazine which featured Streisand and her schmooze in profile on the cover.

Ingrid Sischy, the magazine's long-winded editor, began: "Once in a while a human star shines so brightly that he or she has a transformative power because of talent. And once in a while he or she also uses the fame that comes with that talent to transform the world itself into a juster place. Barbra Streisand is such a humongous star. Humongous is an American word for big."

As the great minds at *Interview* planned the cover story, "we fell into discussion about who was really great and who was trying to change the world, and we all sat there with our eyes shut, thinking, Streisand's name came up and unanimously we said yes ... Yes, yes, yes, we said, and we rushed to make April, the month of her birthday, her issue."

The love-in continues, but we will not trouble you with it further, for fear of nausea. The infection has just begun in Britain, too, with Camilla Paglia coming on fulsomely in *The Sunday Times*. "She is a splendid role-model for women," [Paglia] used to say much the same about Madonna, "a mega-celebrity who is also politically engaged."

So what, precisely, has Streisand done to deserve such approbation? It is not her average skills as a film director or an actress. Nor is it her singing, despite a voice once being described (by Quincy Jones) as a Stradivarius. It is the fact she is consistently photographed in the company of influential persons such as President Clinton, General Colin Powell, and Janet Reno, the attorney-general.

world affairs — she started reading *The Economist* recently after the historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr suggested it might help her — but the fact that she can bring in big money quick. She raised \$1.5m for the Democratic campaign at a party on her lawn, so naturally the Clintons are suitably respectful and offer overnight stays at the White House. Streisand is wanted for her purse, not her mind.

That said, she has a long record of donating to needy causes, and formed a foundation which gave \$714,800 last year to civil rights, AIDS and environment campaigners. But the Gettys of this world give a great deal more without receiving beatification.

Being good or generous is not enough to merit such obsequiousness nowadays. To be a grade one philanthropist it is also necessary to be a star, and preferably to wear a great deal of Donna Karan clothing, something which Streisand does to perfection.

Washington types suggest that Streisand probably knows as much about politics as Marie Antoinette did about farming when she used to play shepherdess. Rumours abound about Senator Streisand, but so far the actress says she can influence the policy better from outside the political loop. "I feel I must sing again to do what I can to ensure a safer and better world," she said when announcing her latest crusade.

The Streisand lovefest must surely end soon. Leon Wieseltier, the cultural editor of the *New Republic* magazine, is leading the way. "The idea that these insulated and bubble-headed people should help to make policy is ridiculous," he said.

KATE MUIR

The woman who once scandalised the conservative establishment of Japan wins acceptance at last

High priestess of shock art



THE first time the Japanese avant-garde artist Yayoi Kusama (left) made an appearance at the Venice Biennale in 1966 she was neither invited nor welcomed. On the lawn outside the Italian pavilion she set up an installation entitled Narcissus Garden consisting of 1,500 mirrored glass balls, then slipped into a red leotard and gambolled about in the middle of it, to the evident appreciation of the media.

Last week, following decades of ostracism by the Japanese contemporary art establishment, Kusama returned to the Venice Biennale as the first woman ever to represent Japan.

The story of Kusama's lonely search for artistic recognition in

Japan reflects the socio-historic changes that have taken place during her lifetime. Born in 1929, 150 miles west of Tokyo, she was brought up by a wealthy family.

The audacious Kusama defied her patrician parents and challenged social conventions at every opportunity. "I have been driven by hallucinations ever since I was young and have felt a maddening need to release the demons inside my head by creating art," she says. "I like to shock."

Kusama rejected the rigid social conventions of Japan and moved to New York in 1957, where she quickly won the friendship and artistic admiration of prominent American artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Joseph Cornell.

Two intense and unblinking eyes stare out today from beneath a jet-black fringe, as she describes her 16 years abroad. "I escaped feudal oppression to find freedom and shocked even the liberal America of the 1960s with my nude Happenings." The notoriously publicity-hungry Kusama staged orgies outside the New York stock exchange, weekly "flesh-ins" in her studio and won critical acclaim with her phallic sculptures, her illusory mirrors and polka-dot patterned oil paintings.

In 1973 Kusama returned to Japan to seek psychiatric treatment and has lived and maintained a studio in a Tokyo psychiatric hospital ever since, producing paintings and sculptures at a furious pace in order,

she says, to channel her madness. "My art is a form of therapy for me," she claims.

For years after her return to Tokyo, Kusama was all but ignored by Japanese art critics. According to one influential critic, Yoshiaki Tono, she was handicapped in the eyes of the Japanese art establishment — "she's Japanese, she's a woman, and she's avant-garde. These are the worst conditions." Only in the mid-1980s did she begin to gain critical success and appreciation.

It is little wonder that in a society that has such a low level of tolerance for madness or genius, especially in women, it took Kusama so long to win this degree of acclaim.

Part of Kusama's long-awaited promotion to what adoring Japa-

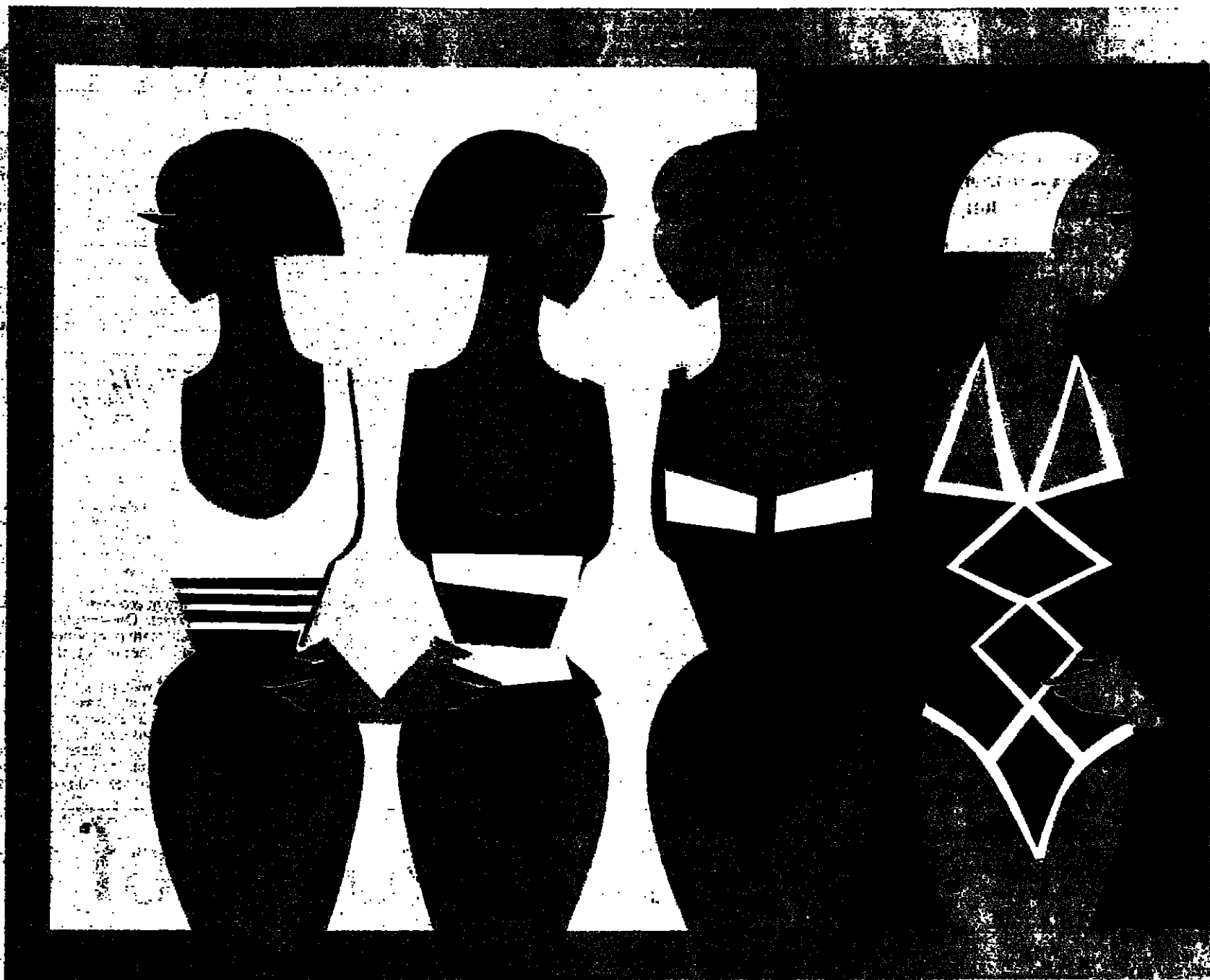
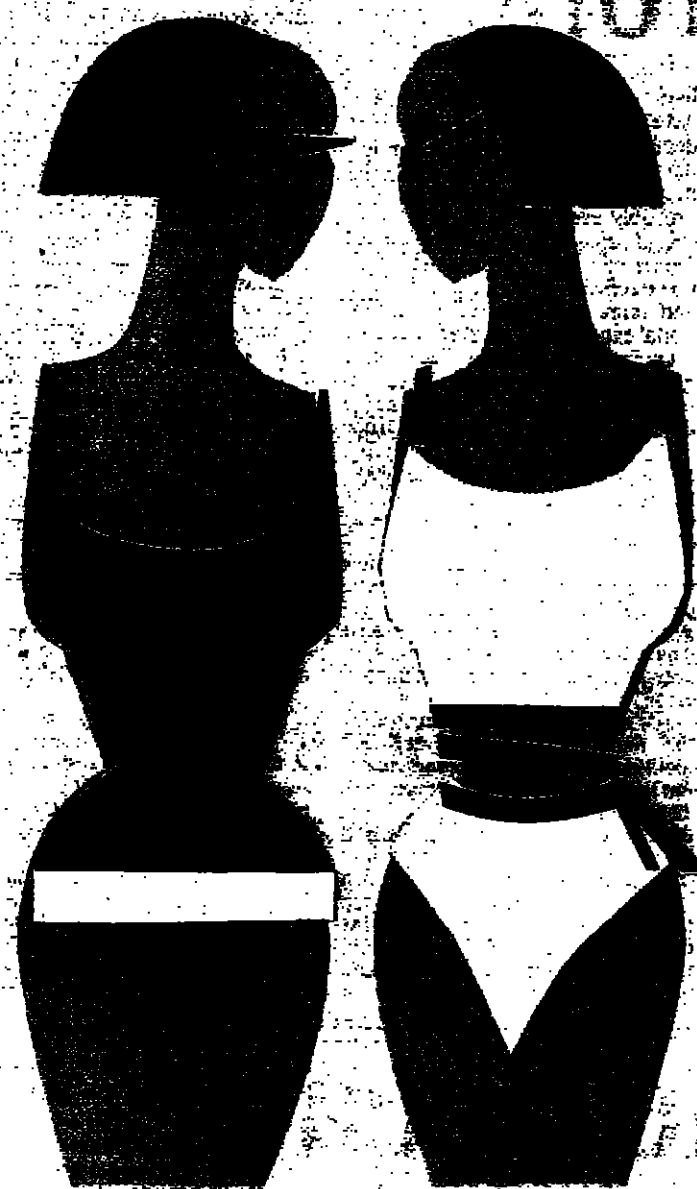
nese journalists have termed "the doyenne of Japanese contemporary art", may derive from her venerable age. She turned 64 this year and Japan's somewhat conservative contemporary art establishment has swallowed its unkind words. It now deems acceptable, even "highly original", her tables, baby carriages or high-heeled shoes obsessively covered with explosive arrangements of phallic canvas protruberances.

Japanese artists still need to win recognition abroad before they can be acclaimed at home. "The reason for the change of heart of the Japanese art establishment," she explains, "comes from the fact that I became well known in America. I only hope that exile will not be necessary for the coming generations."

JOANNA PITMAN

Yayoi Kusama

Black and white and tanned



Dressing for the beach this summer is simply a matter of positive and negative

When it comes to holidays, few people are as organised as Judith Chalmers, who makes it look so easy when she swans off to the Costa or the Caribbean, TV crew in tow. For most of us, dream holidays are more likely to prove a nightmare.

Having sorted out dates, chosen the destination, bought tickets, and booked hotels, how you will look lounging by the pool is the least worry.

It shouldn't be. There is probably nothing more debilitating than appearing in public in a swimsuit, unless you're Naomi Campbell, or any of the other supermodels whose business it is to keep in super-shape. Regardless of the rising interest in the fitness industry, as a nation we are not the most toned and sculpted specimens. It is then not surprising that dressing (or more accurately undressing) on holiday causes such concern.

Choosing a swimming costume is usually a last-minute thing. The brochures may appear mid-winter, but it's not until the weather really heats up that buying a swimsuit begins to make much sense.

Make it an easy choice. Black still looks best. It is extremely flattering, and never dates. An alternative is almost black: dark navy — the darker the better. Touched with white, banding and stripes can be carefully chosen to accentuate the positive: a neat waist, curvy hips, full bosom.

This season positive and negative images brought drama to the runways of the international designers. It is a look which translates neatly to swimwear. What is great about these swimsuits is that they lead another life, doubling as bodices. Their graphic Op Art look works after dark. Adding a pair of wide jersey pants, the same cut in chiffon, or spangly sequins makes a striking evening option. Wrapping a floor skimming sinuous satin sarong in midnight or jet black creates a compelling silhouette.

A completely contradictory option is to pick from the brightest, whitest swimwear on offer. Such suits are not as kind on cover-up, but do look equally stunning. White is especially good for setting-off a light tan. This makes sense now that the sun-blasted look is thankfully on the way out. Having taken time out to holiday, no one wants to stay



pasty pale, but a delicate bronzing not only fits with fashion's overall mood, it also keeps the ageing process from accelerating at such a pace.

Having decided upon the colour, which style for 1993? One summer style pundits plump for the one-piece swimsuit, the next they pronounce that nothing but a bikini will do. As with much of fashion of the moment, it matters little either way. Anything goes. More important, when choosing a swimsuit, it is necessary to feel comfortable with the style. Bared midriffs may well be "in" this summer, but nothing looks worse than a bared midriff which sticks out. The traditional one-piece covers lumps and bumps, especially now that many of the suits available have a lycra content in their fabric mix, helping to contain the figure, lending a smooth line.

Wherever you go on holiday, whatever you choose to wear, it would be nice to think that Ms Chalmers isn't the only one who will be having a good time in the sun this summer.

Top, left to right: Black Lycra swimsuit with white stripe around the hips draws the eye away from a thick waist, £50, Cheviot Girl, Lena Benstrom, 82 High Street, Little Shelford, Cambridge (0223-842244). White cotton Lycra swimsuit with bare midriff and tie detail shows off a well-toned torso, £14.99, Boots, selected branches. Black nylon/spandex bikini with white banding, only for the super-slim, £95, Liza Bruce, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Harrods, Knightsbridge; Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1; Feathers, 40 Hans Crescent, SW1; Firenze, Westbury Centre, Dublin.

Dark navy polyamide/Lycra mix swimsuit with white panels is a must for those with a desire to accentuate the bust, £57.50, Stix, selected House of Fraser stores nationwide. Black viscose swimsuit with white zig-zag trim detail, certain to turn heads on the beach, £150, Karl Lagerfeld, 173 New Bond Street, W1 (071 493 6277). Left: White halter-neck Lycra/cotton swimsuit for the bold, £40, Benetton, nationwide (071 731 4564).

Illustrations: IAIN R. WEBB

● ART and fashion collide. Congratulations to Issey Miyake, who will, later this summer, receive an honorary doctorate from the Royal College of Art, while Giorgio Armani is to sponsor an exhibition of works by young Chinese artists, at the Venice Biennale, which runs from today until September.

● PATRICK Cox and Abe Hamilton have designed signature collections for the Jigsaw chain. Hamilton's confections of cloth, always with an element of the ethereal, will be an extra special treat for the high street. Cox's much coveted shoes and boots, firm favourites with the style-conscious, will be available in two

tempting styles. Top-to-toe fashion from selected London branches of Jigsaw this autumn.

● FOR evenings in and out, Donna Karan's collection of "intimates" provides a sophisticated underwear option. Intended for the boudoir, these pieces — silk pyjamas, cashmere kimonos and lacy bodysuits — are good enough to be worn as outerwear. Already causing a stir with women in New York, Intimates are now available in the UK, from Browns, 23 South Molton Street, W1;

and Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Prices range from £95 to £1,200.

● THIS year's fashion show by Central St Martin's art college was sponsored by Fiat Auto (UK) Ltd, which set a competition for students to design a stylish outfit for city living, complementing the image of "chic and cheek" associated with its new car, the Cinquecento. Iain R. Webb, fashion editor of *The Times*, was one of the judges. A £1,000 prize was awarded to the winner, Vicky Staris, by Giorgio Pavia, the marketing director of Fiat.

RACHEL COLLINS

STUDENT UPDATE

Shocks, not frocks

Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design has a notorious reputation. It has produced a constant flow of fashion industry names — designers and commentators alike. Among them, talents who are difficult acts to follow. This, however, does not stop each new group of graduates from trying. This year was no different.

Last week at The Grand in Clapham, South London, 41 students did their utmost to get noticed. Central Saint Martins is an "ideas laboratory", the show was full of brimming with them. The accent of the course is not about churning out faint-hearted fashion — the collections shown were almost, without question, intended to scare the horses. One collection by Melanie Martine Wilson featured bald, half-naked women modelling harnesses. Ms Wilson explained: "The struggle and violence displayed is a metaphor for the struggle with which an individual resists the violence of a dominant culture."

That the graduate designers were not trying to make "pretty" or "perfect" clothes presents a sad-but-honest commentary. That they put so much effort into creating something new and exciting allows us a sigh of relief: fashion still has a future.

The desire to go beyond seams and sewing, was demonstrated. A metal-cage corset fitted with fireworks by Peter Hough; a wooden-framed skirt which turned into a child's working merry-go-round by Pamela Doherty; and another in leather, padded and buttoned like a Chesterfield sofa by Emma Andrews, were extreme. Outstanding was the collection by Beverley J. Hall, who called her mis-matched and faded designs, "Aunt Rose's life in a suitcase".

Such clever and considered packaging showed the students to be "media friendly", and proves that there is more to fashion than just frocks.

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Matthew Parris



■ God would have to work in even more mysterious ways than usual to satisfy the by-laws of London

The Exodus, as everyone knows, was from Egypt. Have you ever wondered what it might have been like if it had been from Covent Garden? I only ask because I have before me (sent by a flame-eating friend) the "performance licence conditions" laid down by a private body called Market Management, and by that torch-bearer for individual liberty, Westminster City Council.

Before arranging for any of the impressive displays of His supernatural power chronicled in the Book of Exodus, the Almighty would have had to audition and "satisfy the Market Management" that he was a "competent entertainer with a full and varied repertoire suitable for performance in a public place". If successful, He would then have been given a performance pass and reminded that "the nature and content of the performance should not substantially alter from the description given on your performance pass without prior consultation with Market Management".

[So much for the entire, rich history of impromptu public entertainment; *ad lib* is struck from every score, and from concertos, I suppose, the cadenza will have to be omitted.) Performance passes, incidentally, must be carried at all times and produced on request.

...But back to the Almighty, whose problems are only beginning. Some of His stage effects, you may remember, were a little hard on the Egyptians. "No performance should contain racist, sexist, political, indecent or religiously offensive material." Exodus is, surely, Egyptianist?

Worse, the drama is accompanied by loud noises and massive special effects, whereas "the use of Amplification by those performers so authorised shall be according to the conditions set by Westminster City Council" and, moreover, "the acceptable level determined by Market Management and/or Officers of Westminster City Council and any requests made to reduce level or cease noise must be complied with".

I'm afraid we'd run into trouble with the pillars of cloud, too. No scenery, staging or large props may be used in conjunction with any performance without specific arrangements having been made in advance. This would almost certainly rule out manna, if that had not already been done by the food inspectors and the Brussels labelling directives.

Indeed the term "land of milk and honey" probably falls foul of the Trade Descriptions Act. A more detailed and less lyrical summary, together with a listing of all additives and E

numbers, would be required today. Land of 100 per cent dairy product and no artificial sweeteners would probably suffice, and remember, Lord, that the milk cannot be green-top unless supplied to members of your own family or non-paying guests.

But all that is hypothetical. We never get this far. We never get, in fact, past the second page of Exodus in my Boys' Brigade Bible.

"And the angel of the Lord appeared unto [Moses] in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed."

That is Exodus, Chapter 3, Verse 2. Now turn to Performance Licence Conditions, Chapter 1, Clause 12. Here begins the lesson: "The use of real flame by these performers so authorised, shall be according to the following: (A) Real flame may ONLY be used on the west Piazza."

"(B) The area to be used by the performer must be marked out with chain, rope etc so as to be visible, and two barriers are to be erected which must surround the marked out performance area to prevent the public from approaching closer than one metre to it. Performers must stay within the marked out area."

"(C) ONLY PARAFFIN and lighter fuel may be used for juggling devices and must be contained in an absorbent material. The use of free-flowing, contained or pressurised flammable liquids or gases as part of an act are prohibited. If exposed flammable liquid is required for the replenishment of torches, this shall be contained in a sealed non-combustible container, and lighter fuel can only be used in small self-sealed quantities (e.g. 100ml sealed lighter fuel) which must not be left unattended in the public area."

"(D) At all performances a 4.5 litre APT extinguisher, a 2.2kg carbon dioxide extinguisher and a fire blanket must be present."

"(E) Prior to every performance, performers using real flame during their act must advise Market Security before doing so, and sign the necessary paperwork."

"And the Lord said unto [Moses] What is in this hand? And he said, A rod. And He said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent..."

At three o'clock last Wednesday morning I walked home through the quiet streets of Westminster after the House of Lords debate on the Maastricht bill. I did not arrive with the milkman, but I did find that *The Wall Street Journal* had already been pushed through my letter-box. My head was still full of the closing speeches as I glanced rather briefly at the front page. I found that the lead note of the European Report almost exactly coincided with what I had been arguing four hours earlier in the House of Lords. A different spokesman, a different audience, but the same message.

The Wall Street Journal reported the talks between Chancellor Kohl and the Confederation of European Employers and Industrial Organisations. The same day the European Community released its forecast of an annual decline of 0.3 per cent in the European economy, even allowing for Britain's recovery. This was accompanied by a warning from the German finance ministry that European unemployment could rise to a postwar high of 12 per cent, from the present 10.4 per cent. I had told the House of Lords that European unemployment might rise from 17 million to 20 million, which is almost exactly the same forecast. "Europe's share of world markets is declining and this trend must be reversed" was the warning of the European employers to the German Chancellor. By world standards, Europe is a high-cost, high-unemployment area, which is not very competitive.

About 130 speeches were made in the course of the second reading debate. The majority of them, particularly those in favour of the Maastricht bill, assumed that the European economy is strong, that the European Community is moving inexorably forward, and that Britain is dealing with a great and successful

economic power from a position of weakness. These assumptions framed the thinking of the debate, and particularly of the government. Only a minority of speakers showed a grasp of the problems of the European economy, or of the extreme difficulty of fitting the Maastricht project to the real economic conditions of the 1990s. A few peers argued that Maastricht was the last hurrah of the boom of the 1980s, but that had little impact on the more optimistic expectations of the majority. The truth is that Europe is the weakest of the large regional economies, except for the former communist bloc.

The House of Lords has many virtues. Obviously our legal speeches are much deeper and more authoritative than those made in the House of Commons; we have the judges and they do not. We have the former vice-chancellors, the senior doctors, the scientists, the former Chancellors, the former foreign secretaries, the former prime ministers, of whom Lady Thatcher is the star. We also have Lord Tebbit, the best knock-down debater in either House. If one compares the second reading debate in the Lords with the debates in the Commons, ours has been intellectually more interesting. The Labour front bench plumped for a single currency, which was intellectually and politically adventurous.

Yet the House of Lords has three critical disadvantages. The House has no power; we are answerable to

At the unhealthy heart of Europe

William Rees-Mogg

the control of European economic policy from the European national parliaments and transfer power to non-elected European bodies, particularly the European central bank. This lack of democratic authority for the Maastricht economic structure is a fatal defect. One might as well transfer all matters of finance from the House of Commons to the House of Lords.

The second weakness of the House of Lords is that peers have no constituencies. The essence of government is response to the governed. Once a legislator is taken from the hard work of winning votes, he or she is removed from the reality of voters

imposes that the European project has a historic inevitability which we must accept because we cannot alter it, like the Maastricht bill itself, which cannot be amended because the treaty cannot be amended.

The common metaphors are false. There is no heart of Europe; there is no top table; there is no train and there certainly is no track. If Europe fails to resolve its economic problems and the problems of Eastern Europe, then the EC will have failed, and will be changed, bypassed or even destroyed. The electorates of Europe will not accept that they must live in an area of permanent depression and high unemployment; even less will they do so because nominated central bankers think that they should.

Maastricht does not square with the real Europe. The European Community faces, as the Confederation of Employers told Chancellor Kohl, a crisis of declining competitiveness. Unemployment is higher and growth prospects are worse than in the United States or Japan, let alone China and the far Pacific countries. The European share of world trade is falling. Britain's position in this is not particularly unfavourable. Germany, France, Italy and Spain all suffer from economic problems as difficult as ours, though not identical. Maastricht will add to Europe's regulations and costs, and may perpetuate the overvaluation of European currency.

Europe must be competitive to survive; the European economy must grow to retain or restore public support. Maastricht will tend to make Europe less competitive, and to inhibit growth. Yet there is great pressure to ratify it. That is the dilemma which confronts Britain. The House of Lords debate was a crucial occasion, but we could do little to resolve that dilemma, if only because so many refuse to believe that it exists.

Hangover of the decade

Major inherited many of his headaches, says Peter Riddell

The Tories could end up dumping John Major over the next 18 months if only because they cannot think of any other way out of their unpopularity. But changing their leader will not end their troubles.

Concentrating on Mr Major's failings, real, exaggerated and imagined, misses the point. It is a convenient evasion from recognising that the Tories' real problems derive from the end of the Thatcher era. Mr Major has obviously made mistakes in handling the contradictions of this legacy. But whoever was now prime minister would face similar difficulties.

The hangover from the 1980s has affected all industrial countries, as their governments have struggled to get out of the recession and on top of soaring budget deficits. Chancellor Kohl and even the recently elected President Clinton are in as difficult a position as Mr Major in trying to overcome public resistance to higher taxes and cuts in public services. And, as Douglas Hurd argued on Friday, "in countries after country people have withdrawn support from government not because they turn to a shadow government but because they feel distrust for the whole political process and for those involved in it".

In the British case, the Thatcher era generated unsustainable expectations. As Norman Lamont has argued, the recession had its origins in the boom of 1988-89. The failure to check that boom soon enough lay in the long-running dispute between Lady Thatcher and Lord Lawson. The late 1980s also created hopes that expanding public services, tax cuts and healthy public finances could be happily combined. That was made possible only by the buoyant tax receipts of the boom years. So the end of the Thatcher era left the



Shared responsibility: should John Major be blamed for failures that originated in the Thatcherite eighties?

certainly of a recession and a confusion over policy.

Mr Major cannot escape some of the blame. That is little to do with his advocacy of sterling's entry into the exchange-rate mechanism. A tight monetary policy was anyway going to be necessary to reduce the high levels of both direct and indirect taxes. It has similarly failed to reach a decision on whether the government needs to intervene to help improve the competitive position of British industry.

The Thatcher era left confusion about Britain's policy towards Europe. Lady Thatcher professed robust nationalism but, in practice, compromised with the rest of the EC. Last week's Lords debate on the Maastricht bill contained a fascinating insight from Lord Cockfield

about her willingness to sign a declaration in favour of European union a decade ago. But her anti-British rhetoric has overshadowed her successor's attempts to put "Britain at the very heart of Europe". Tight political constraints have meant that he has only been able to manoeuvre tactically rather than to resolve the strategic question.

The most important legacy of the Thatcher years is political. She was an unusually forceful leader — by definition a hard act to follow. The politicisation of the Tory party built up tensions that were bound to be released after her going. The "are you one of us?" approach led to the formation of factions. Posts on backbench committees are now contested along left versus right lines, or pro-EC versus Eurosceptic. These

differences have been aggravated by her continued resentment at her forced departure. She has been a rallying point for dissent, if not for a counter-coup. She appears to have laid hands on Michael Portillo as keeper of the flame.

The Tories' difficulties have been reinforced by the fall in their Commons majority from the high levels of the 1980s. Then, a dozen MPs could rebel and nobody would notice. Now, they can defeat the government. Many Tory MPs are finding it hard to accept the implications of the change. It is no good, as Sir Bernard Ingham suggested yesterday, for Mr Major to give them an "early bloody nose" and withdraw the whip. These are empty threats which would make martyrs out of the rebels. All Mr Major can do is to tack and manoeuvre while trying to preserve as much as possible of his basic programme, as he has so far.

Many of the recent criticisms of Mr Major fail to take account of this legacy and these constraints. Comparisons with Anthony Eden are misplaced. It is far from obvious that anyone else would have been more successful since November 1990. Mr Major triumphantly succeeded in his initial goal of leading the party to victory 14 months ago. Since then it is doubtful whether an alternative leader could have avoided the ERM debacle, the retreat over pit closures or the agonies of the Maastricht bill.

These difficulties are more to do with the government's overall predicament than with Mr Major's style of leadership. Yet he has obviously lost public support; and, unless recovery boosts the Tories' fortunes in a year's time, he could be in real trouble. The Tories would, however, be deluding themselves if they thought that electing a new leader would resolve their problems.

The danger is that Mr Major appears as a victim of circumstances, rather than in charge of events. Mr Lamont's charge last Wednesday about short-termism, "being in office but not in power", hit home. After the Thatcher years, we have come to expect our prime ministers to be in power as well as in office. That is why the Thatcher legacy has been so double-edged.

Howe now?

JOHN MAJOR may be about to signal the final break with Margaret Thatcher by recalling Geoffrey Howe to the heart of government. It would be the final straw for Thatcherites, who have never forgiven Lord Howe for his resignation speech, which triggered Michael Heseltine's leadership challenge.

Howe has played an increasingly prominent role in politics in the past few weeks. Not just on Maastricht, which is about to return to the Lords, but in a series of television and radio interviews rallying support for the prime minister.

There are some suggestions that Howe could even return to the cabinet as a minister without portfolio in the Upper House. Others suggest Major should draft him into his much maligned kitchen cabinet as a high-powered senior adviser. The latter option may appeal more to Howe as his name has been linked with the chairmanship of the BBC, post-Marmaduke Hussey, and he could combine the jobs. That would create an inter-

esting family double act in broadcasting. Elspeth Howe has just become chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council. It has been disclosed that she initially rejected the job, with a £38,400 salary for three days' work — a reluctance understandable in light of her current responsibilities, which are as formidable as her character.

In *Who's Who* she is listed as a non-executive director of three large national companies, Legal & General, United Biscuits and Kingfisher. She is chairman of two organisations, president of another three, and sits on the council of a further three as well as being a school governor and member of the inner-London juvenile court panel.

There is more than meets the eye to the government's determination today to defeat a Lords amendment on the leasehold reform bill. The amendment would prevent leaseholders in sought-after properties in cathedral closes from having an automatic

right to buy their freeholds from the cathedrals. But only a handful of leaseholders will be affected if the government wins. So why all the fuss? Could it be because one of them is Sir Edward Heath, Salisbury Cathedral Close's best-known resident, who also happens to be one of the few backbench MPs prepared publicly to declare loyalty to John Major?

Sitting it out

NO, Norman Lamont will not go to the ball. Nor will Kenneth Clarke, come to that. Which is a pity. Both Lamont and his successor were on the



guest list for the May Ball tomorrow night at Jesus College.

Not only are they both friends of Lord Renton, the Master of Jesus, they are the leading members of the Cambridge mafia in the cabinet, which includes John Gummer and Michael Howard. They were all at Cambridge at the same time.

But the two men will not be having their first face to face meeting since the reshuffle, because neither will be at the ball. Clarke had got as far as paying for his tickets, but has withdrawn because he will be making the Mansion House speech tomorrow night.

Lamont had pulled out for the same reason. But that was before the reshuffle. "It did not seem to be right to pressurise him," says Renton. "He had said he had other engage-

DIARY

of its life as a curiosity hanging in the firm's office. It might taste nice with beans.

FO farewell

ONE of Douglas Hurd's most trusted advisers, Edward Bickham, is leaving the Foreign Office. Bickham has been hired by Hill and Knowlton, the public affairs company, as managing director of corporate policy.

Bickham, who worked with Hurd in Northern Ireland and at the Home Office, will be working with Sir Bernard Ingham, who was Margaret Thatcher's press secretary, and is a consultant to the firm. Bickham's employment should be more secure than the last job he applied for. He was on the shortlist to fight Christchurch for the Tories.

They must be wishing they hadn't bothered. The Arts Council, in turmoil after the resignation of Lord Rix, has commissioned Andrew Sinclair to write its official history. It will be published by Sinclair-Stevenson to mark the council's fiftieth birthday in 1995. Some wonder whether the council will survive that



Let's hear it for Stanley

AS Graham Taylor was leading England out against Brazil the Football Association was rebuffing the latest challenge to the manager. Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, has rejected an approach for the post from Lord Sutcliffe, the indefatigable political campaigner.

Kelly received a faxed offer from Sutcliffe saying "I am ready to answer the call of my country" on Friday. Mike Williams, an FA spokesman, says: "We were surprised. Because there isn't a vacancy." The FA was not impressed by Sutcliffe's solution to the team's problems: he wants Sir Stanley Matthews (left) recalled.

Menthol Lyptus lozenges before each match. The team physio, Ken Murphy, has prescribed the medicine to keep at bay the colds and influenza of the Kiwi winter. The sight of the burly 15 sucking sweeties before each match hardly a rival to the All Blacks' traditional warm-up, the Maori war dance.

Heavy breathers THE British Lions touring in New Zealand have a secret weapon. Britain's finest are being dosed up with Halls



DEATH IN MOGADISHU

The UN must continue to strike against the warlords

The terrible images of dead and wounded Somali civilians, shot by Pakistani troops under UN command who fired with little or no warning on a crowd of demonstrators yesterday morning, are bound to distort judgment of the weekend's separate punitive offensives by the United Nations against General Aidid. The UN strikes against the headquarters and armories of the Somali warlord, held responsible for the deliberate, deadly ambush of UN peacekeeping forces nine days ago, were not only justified but essential. More will be needed.

This was a calculated provocation aimed at undermining the UN's authority. Had the UN not acted with exemplary toughness, it could have jeopardised not only the Somali operation but the viability of UN peacekeeping worldwide. If criticism is warranted, it is that the UN has hesitated so long to impose the basic conditions for rebuilding something akin to ordered political and economic life in this torn country. The UN's resolve to break the power of all Somalia's rival warlords by destroying their arsenals should be reinforced, not weakened, by the tragedy of yesterday's civilian deaths. Conventional peacekeeping in the middle of a giant arms dump, which is what Somalia is today, is impossible.

But in using force to confront the warlords, the UN must be seen to be partisan only in defence of the rights of the great majority of Somalis who are the victims of the armed struggles for power. The UN must investigate yesterday's shooting of the Somali demonstrators as rigorously as it pursues disarmament, and discipline the officers concerned if it decides that they acted in other than legitimate self-defence. This was the first mass killing of civilians by UN forces: operation "continue hope" cannot afford a repetition.

The Pakistanis, 23 of whose colleagues were killed and around 50 wounded in last week's assault, may have acted in revenge. But they may have also been panicked, suspecting that the thousands of hostile

demonstrators confronting them were masking an armed attack. One of the most hideous tactics used by the Somali warlords is to exploit women and children as human shields to give cover for their gunmen. Until the UN has investigated, crowd control duties should not be assigned to the nervous, lightly-armed Pakistani contingents.

Most Somalis saw the original American intervention last December and the subsequent arrival of the UN troops as bulwarks against starvation and anarchy. Most of them held General Aidid and his rivals in hatred and contempt, blaming them squarely for prolonging the civil war, and for profiteering at the expense of famine victims. The initial failure by the Americans to disarm the warlords, as they were urged to do by aid workers, weakened that trust. Any hesitation by the UN in carrying out its new broader mandate could destroy it.

Yesterday's shootings have given General Aidid, who turned Mogadishu's hospitals vowing to defend his people against the UN, an unlooked-for advantage in the propaganda war. His ability to move unchallenged around the city, when the security council has demanded the detention and trial of all those suspected of involvement in the deaths of the Pakistani troops, is a sobering reminder that the use of American airpower is no substitute for regaining full command of the capital's streets.

The longer it takes to disarm the country — not just putting weapons under UN control, but physically destroying them — the greater is the risk of a repetition of yesterday's shooting. The co-operation of ordinary Somalis is indispensable, not least because much of the weaponry is in secret dumps. The UN must be seen to show restraint, and discipline, when dealing with civilians, never forgetting its primary protective mission. But for their long-term protection, gun law must be outlawed: its main strategy must be to continue to strike hard against its warring factions. Only so will confidence return.

THE INJUSTICE OF DELAY

A slow and under-funded legal system stultifies administration

Judicial overstretch has become a threat to the functioning of the English legal system. This must not be forgotten in the current review of public spending. In March, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, announced that ten more High Court judges would be appointed to help deal with the backlog of cases, which has been described by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, as "a national disgrace". That decision was welcome, but will not solve the problem at a stroke.

The new posts will take time to fill, as the small print is agreed between Lord Mackay and the Treasury, and may in any case be less tempting to the best barristers than they would have been a decade ago. Although the cachet of a place on the bench is undiminished, the judiciary's last pay increase was below the rate of inflation and considerably smaller than the recommendation of the Top Salaries Review Body. Meanwhile, five extra High Court judges have been called in to deal with the mountain of litigation following the severe losses in the Lloyd's insurance market. Solving that problem will create another somewhere else in the system.

The usual delay in the Chancery division for cases of more than three days is already 22 months. Although the law requires applicants for judicial review to lodge their application within three months of the decision they wish to challenge, they themselves must wait a year and a half for justice. London is rapidly losing its reputation as the world centre for the resolution of international commercial disputes as delays

drive litigants to other cities. The growing importance of judicial review as a constitutional check on the executive means, furthermore, that judges' workload is bound to increase. The asylum bill, for instance, will leave visitors barred from Britain with no means of appeal but to petition the High Court for a judicial review. The British are likely to become more litigious rather than less as they become aware of the rights which the government's reform of the public sector has given them. Ten extra judges may not be enough.

Much can be done to speed up the flow of cases through the courts. The judiciary's two-month summer vacation should certainly be trimmed, and the courts sit for an extra hour every day. But the quality of justice will not be improved by forcing judges to become drones. The financial implications of this structural problem in the English justice system cannot be avoided.

Making justice is easy. Setting priorities is much harder. The public spending review must identify not only those areas of expenditure that can be slimmed down but also those that cannot. English commercial law alone is worth £450 million a year in invisible earnings, a legal market Britain cannot afford to squander by deterring businesses from litigating in London. The cost of remand facilities and the bureaucracy created by delay can be enormous. A slow legal system has an unhealthy effect on government generally. Over-cautious funding of the judiciary is a false economy; that is a judgement which the nation must make.

MORE POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The proper birthday present for democracy is eternal vigilance

To remind those who have not yet noticed that 1993 is world democracy year, the Greek naval trireme Olympias arrived off Putney yesterday. On Wednesday the Greek Minister of Culture is going to present the Speaker of the House of Commons with the Athenian stele from the 4th century BC, inscribed with a resolution about the defence of the people's power, from the mother of democracy to the mother of parliaments.

In one of the harmless forms of 20th-century propaganda, years are now dedicated to worthy causes as automatically as they once were to the eponymous archons of Athens. Of course, it is an oversimplification to claim that democracy was invented 2,500 years ago. But the reforms of Cleisthenes in Athens in 508-507 BC replaced the old tribal constitution with the novel idea that political power should lie with the whole citizen body, the *demos*, and over the next two centuries, mass democracy was invented and then suppressed. The experiment lasted for only a brief period, and was confined to a state of Greece with as many citizens as a British parliamentary constituency. But it introduced the revolutionary notion that all citizens (who did not include non women, slaves and aliens) were equal before the law, and free to say what they wanted, without fear of their rulers, monarch or noble, party whip or mob. The people were the rulers: the son of a tanner was as good as a noble.

Even in 5th-century BC Athens, the system had its flaws, being capable of rapacious imperialism, cruelty, tergiversation and

injustice. Socrates was condemned by the democratic assembly, ostensibly for what he said, more probably for his anti-democratic connections. From its beginning, intellectuals as well as elites have disapproved of the common incompetence of democracy.

But with all its imperfections on its head, people's power has emerged as the best way to manage society. Most inhabitants of the world do not yet live under anything approaching a democracy; and the ancient Athenians would find British representative democracy deficient and dishonest, particularly in the rationing of power and the management and denial of information to its citizens. But even the most authoritarian and piratical regimes today pay the tribute that vice pays to virtue by styling themselves people's democracies or republics.

Celebrating anniversaries of who invented what is a trivial form of historiography, fit for a quiz game or a book of statistics. The proper tribute to Pericles and those other original democrats is not just to give them two nostalgic cheers, but to exercise eternal vigilance against the laconic and deceitful and centralising instincts of all governments. The struggle between an open society, such as briefly ran classical Athens, and closed societies from ancient Sparta to the People's Republic of China, and aspects of others nearer home, is never over. This week's junketings should sound a trumpet never to take our democracy for granted. History is by no means yet dead. Democracy is still worthy of much improvement.

Right to know for victims' families

From Mr Michael Sullivan

Sir, Your leader of May 29, "Dangerous to know", rightly points out that the Allit and Inweh cases exemplify the low priority given by public agencies to protecting innocent potential victims and the danger to public safety arising from the unwillingness of public officials to condemn individuals.

Having allowed this situation to arise, the authorities then go to great lengths to protect their officials and make it almost impossible and very expensive for the families of victims to find out what happened. It seems apparent in these two cases that, as your leader points out, naïvely, poor communications and protesting thinking resulted in avoidable deaths.

What the families want, and have every right to know is whether these shortcomings amounted to negligence. We need an accessible procedure which will satisfy the family that the events have been independently investigated and, where appropriate, responsibility for failure has been identified.

In reality what happens is that the families feel they have no rights (and indeed it seems they have very few), and a wall of officialdom is quickly erected. I know from my own painful experience as the father of Inweh's victim that only by perseverance and substantial expenditure can the family prevent the case being closed.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SULLIVAN,
43 Ullswater Crescent,
Kington Vale, SW15,
June 7.

St Ethelburga's future

From Mr Brian H. Gill

Sir, Simon Jenkins is to be heartily congratulated for exposing the cultist squabbles that are blocking so disgracefully the full restoration of St Ethelburga's (No memorial for the terrorist", May 29).

This appalling tale suggests that the Church of England as at present constituted is not a fit custodian for the City's "38 surviving churches". I have no doubt that, if the Corporation of London were to give its backing, City firms (individually or in groups) would be happy to adopt these churches and spend the relatively minuscule sums needed for their upkeep and protection.

It is clear to me, as an archaeologist, that complete restoration of St Ethelburga's would be a less complex task than that involved in the recent reconstruction work at Hampton Court after the fire.

The good will is there (exemplified by Sir Robert MacAlpine's offer to store the stones and beams), the skills are there among the experts at English Heritage and the Museum of London, and, as Simon Jenkins so rightly says, the funding presents no substantial difficulties.

Let us then go forward with the restoration of this beautiful little building, and let those who believe that doctrinal nit-picking is more important wrangle their misguided way into the "dustbin of history".

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN H. GILL,
261 Grove Street,
Deptford Wharf, SE8,
June 1.

A precious resource

From the Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trusts

Sir, While above average rainfall in April and May may have washed away the 20th century's longest drought (report, June 7), this does not mean that the problems over water shortages for people and wildlife have gone. Drought was only one factor causing dried-up rivers and wetlands.

Normally wildlife would bounce back after a drought — which is, after all, a natural phenomenon. However, our careless use of water has led to over-abstraction of our water supplies. As highlighted in our recent report, *Still Dying of Thirst?*, everyone is responsible for managing and using our water resources and we should not become complacent because of the recent wet weather. We must, for all our sakes, treat water as the precious resource it is.

Yours faithfully,
T. S. CORDY,
Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts,
The Green, Witham Park,
Waterside South, Lincoln.

Funding the arts

From Pamela Lady Harlech

Sir, Lord Pahlumbo's letter to the Secretary of State for National Heritage, ("Dear Peter... Yours Peter", Arts, June 10) hits the target square on. English National Ballet was asked in March by the finance department of the Arts Council to submit plans based on a real reduction of grant over the next three years of £619,716.

To demand that the general public pay more for their seats or to expect this to be made up from sponsorship in these straitened times is simply unrealistic. The only options we had in our reply to the Arts Council were to propose a reduction in repertoire, a reduction in the number of regional performances, or unpalatable redundancies.

I know that Lord Pahlumbo will look

How to pay for university education

From Sir Richard Luce,
Vice-Chancellor of the
University of Buckingham

Sir, You are right in your editorial ("R.L.P. Robbins", June 8) to call for a re-examination of the future of university funding.

Certain key facts must be accepted. Firstly, our universities are as good as any in the world and we must preserve the quality of the learning environment for students. Secondly, this is the age of wider access to higher education, and that is to be warmly welcomed. Thirdly, we must accept that our universities now need to meet a wide range of interests and requirements, incorporating mature students and part-timers as well as school-leavers.

Lastly, we must realise that the taxpayer can no longer shoulder the full burden of support as we try to increase student numbers.

What we need, therefore, is a thorough and objective assessment of all the options. These should certainly include the Australian higher education contribution scheme, which allows for the repayment of student loans through the tax system, the existing student loan scheme, a voucher scheme which gives students a basic amount of taxpayer support augmented by the student where necessary, and a simple means test of tuition fees as well as accommodation costs.

A new deal between the government and universities is needed. Universities must be prepared to accept a new funding system that allows some underpinning by the taxpayer but moves some way towards a greater student contribution to higher education costs. In return, the government must undertake to get off the backs of universities, to end the present bureaucratic methods of funding and to allow full academic freedom, but, of course, with a broad and adequate system of accountability for the use of taxpayers' money.

All this calls for a constructive contribution from the universities to the discussion on funding.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LUCE,
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Buckingham,
Buckingham, MK18 1EG,
June 8.

From Professor R. N. Franklin, FENG,
Vice-Chancellor of City University

Sir, Your advocacy of the Australian system of graduate tax is laudable in drawing attention to a successful experiment in an Anglophone country, but it succeeds there because most Australian graduates spend their working lives in Australia. It is not

self-evident that the most able British graduates will wish to accept such insularity.

An argument for graduate tax is that it makes possible the charging of realistic tuition fees. Interestingly, there are precedents for higher fees, in the form of the college fees charged by Oxford and Cambridge — but these are paid in full by the state for home and EC students, representing a subsidy only partly recognised by existing Universities Funding Council mechanisms.

There is a clear policy issue here — whether Oxford and Cambridge should be integrated within the national system or excluded from it. They would prove worthy in either case, but the ambiguity does them little service.

However, the main policy issue is whether we should try to make our higher education more like that in the United States, with its fee-driven economy, or whether the rest of Europe should be a model: a mass education system with low fees, high state subsidy and, for initial entrants, often a low quality of educational experience.

I hope we can preserve the international standing of our best institutions and, at the same time, develop appropriately those whose task it is to educate the majority of our graduates. I appeal to our beleaguered Secretary of State to provide us with a vision of the future as he sees it, given that our future, as determined by Parliament, is in Europe.

Yours faithfully,
RAOUL FRANKLIN,
Vice-Chancellor,
City University,
Northampton Square, EC1,
June 10.

From Mr Jeremy Browne

Sir, It is neither reactionary nor unrealistic to support the continued provision of free higher education by the state. Educating people is a national investment intended to facilitate thought, increase productivity and liberate minds.

The growing culture of anti-intellectualism is arguably a greater burden on our nation than any amount of public sector borrowing. There is nothing progressive about placing a tax on knowledge — it is a short-term measure running contrary to our supposed position as a modern and dynamic state.

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY BROWNE
(President),
University of Nottingham Union,
Portland Building,
University Park, Nottingham,
June 8.

Bosnia conflict

From Mr Khawar M. Qureshi

Sir, I read Simon Jenkins's article, "The war the West avoided" (June 9), with a sense of deep regret.

I regret its perception of the conflict in Bosnia. At its outset, and until very recently, it was clear to all that the Bosnian Serbs were the aggressors. There is evidence in abundance to show that, far from being a civil war, this conflict has been initiated and is being actively supported by the state of Serbia.

Indeed, the International Court of Justice, at an intermediate hearing of a case brought by Bosnia, found that there was evidence of genocide having been carried out, for which Serbia was *prima facie* responsible. It is only since the self-appointed and exclusive guardians of international peace and security prevaricated, and finally washed their bloodstained hands of responsibility for Bosnia, that an anarchic and terrifying free-for-all has been taking place.

I regret, too, the article's implication that one can relieve one's conscience by feeding the victims of the war, some of whom will no doubt be killed at a later stage, without seeking to end the conflict. And I regret its advocacy of an approach, which merely offers temporary respite for those who are doomed to a wretched existence for generations to come — an approach which comes close, at best, to denying the responsibility of the great powers to prevent or quell international anarchy and, at worst, to appeasement of aggression.

The destiny of Bosnia may well be doomed beyond hope, but we can at least accept our share of the blame for failing to prevent or limit its destruction.

Yours faithfully,
KHAWAR M. QURESHI,
1 Hare Court, Temple, EC4.

Verdict on Bousquet

From Mr Edward Windham-Bellord

Sir, The last sentence of your obituary notice of the late Mr René Bousquet (June 9) states: "His violent death prevents him from being finally judged for crimes against humanity."

How very untrue.
I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
EDWARD WINDHAM-BELLORD,
10 Roman Gardens, Victoria Island,
Lagos, Nigeria.

very closely at the way the Arts Council distributes its funds, to allow as much as possible of the Arts Council grant to go to the originating artist. In return, I hope Mr Brooke will look equally closely and sympathetically at Lord Pahlumbo's appeal.

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA HARLECH
(Chairman, Board of Governors),
English National Ballet,
Markova House, 39 Jay Mews, SW7,
June 11.

From the Chairman of
Bournemouth Orchestras

Sir, Do those of us who manage the arts have to remind Whitehall yet again that our industry (I use the word advisedly) actually contributes to the underlying wealth of this country, not least in our value to the

British Council's work for Britain

From the Assistant Director-General of the British Council

Sir, Mr Anthony Fitzpatrick argues (letter, June 10) that the competitive stance that the British Council has been required to adopt in recent years conflicts with its role of representing Britain and British organisations overseas and that this diminishes the British effort.

The opposite is the case. The fact that criticism of the council is "muted" in British institutions is nothing to do with "patronage".

It is because most of these institutions understand the advantages they derive from the council's global network of contacts and its promotional work on their behalf. Indeed, they directly fund us to market their resources overseas.

These contacts, built up over decades, provide access to key points in overseas governments and societies. This in turn enables British companies and organisations to produce good business for Britain.

We estimate that £500 million worth of income to the British economy is directly generated by the British Council's varied activities.

Some of this business is done in partnership with the council, most is done independently. Much is done in countries where circumstances are difficult and complex. Little would be possible without the reputation for quality, objectivity and long-term engagement that makes the council a trusted partner overseas.

Where the council competes for training contracts it does so on full-cost terms. At least 85 per cent of the value of contracts we win is paid to British consultants, educational and training institutions and other subcontractors.

In English language teaching our network of teaching centres operates entirely by fee income and at no cost to the taxpayer.

In most cases the council's withdrawal from teaching English overseas would result not in more business for Britain but less; not in more English being taught to the standard of quality we demand but less.

To maintain that Britain should trade in the vital global asset which is the British Council for some kind of generalised representative role is, in today's world, both misconceived and directly damaging to the country's interests.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND MARSDEN,
Assistant Director-General,
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, SW1,
June 10.

Initiative test

From Dr Stephen St C. Bostock

Sir, Whatever the rights and wrongs of the English tests for 14-year-olds, I am alarmed by the implication of one particular exercise. This involved the writing of a letter to the information officer of the National Trust for Scotland about a school project, clearly on the assumption that such people have limitless time and money to assist pupils with their projects.

The Archbishop of York (report, June 2) has illustrated the amusing ineptitude of some of the information requests the Church's representatives receive: "We are doing God this term. Please send all relevant information and leaflets."

I, as a zoo education officer, receive innumerable letters similarly all-embracing in their demands: "I am doing a project on wildlife. Please send information."

Surely teachers — and education authorities — should encourage pupils to use books and libraries. Or is it all a plot to bring the country's institutions to a grinding halt, drowned in a sea of letters and questionnaires from junior "researchers"?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN ST C. BOSTOCK
(Education officer),
Glasgow Zoo, Calderpark,
Uddingston, Glasgow 7,
June 9.

Battle of the pens

From Mr Rex Barton

Sir, The ballpoint versus the quill ("The Biro writes itself into history", June 2) is, in pugilistic terms, simply a "no contest". Quill, dip and fountain pens are both elegant and efficient instruments and Walter Ellis's erroneous criticisms relate solely to the incompetence of those who attempt to use them without the empathy they deserve.

Yours faithfully,
REX BARTON,
Southfield, 37 Chapel Lane,
Knighton, Leicestershire,
June 3.

From Mr M. J. Regester

Sir, The interesting article by Walter Ellis reminds me of the reaction of the Waterman Pen Company to this threat to their more conventional product. They described it as "the only pen that produces six carbon copies and no original".

Unfortunately, in the early days, this was often only too true.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE REGESTER,
4 Abbey Cottages, Medmenham,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire,
June 2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

Jane Lapotaire, movingly direct in an RSC triumph

Can Labour offer our children a better alternative?

Yve Newbold defends Hanson's rule changes

BOOKS ON MONDAY Page 31

THE TIMES 2

MONDAY JUNE 14 1993

England draw strength from Platt's lead

Brazil 1
England 1

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN WASHINGTON

A CROWD of 54,118 in the RFK Stadium in Washington, the largest attendance for any sport in the United States yesterday, saw David Platt restore a vestige of pride to England. By scoring the first goal of a tense and equal struggle, Platt proved that where there is determination and will, even with the gulf that exists between England and the South Americans, hope persists.

The turning point the England manager had been hoping for, indeed had come close to openly praying for, might have offered itself two minutes into the second half. It was then, with his first touch of the ball, that David Platt surprisingly gave England the lead.

Platt had been trying to convince Graham Taylor for two days that he felt his damaged ankle had sufficiently recuperated to face the team which three days previously had, for 45 minutes, so devastated Germany that many believed they were watching the current world champions give way to new ones. But Brazil had become a shade over arrogant, had allowed a three-goal lead to slip against Germany, and yesterday seldom looked like putting on the same display of skill and fantasy against England.

The major credit for this may be due to the planning of Taylor. Despite all doubts about his clarity of mind, he selected a team with four changes, he maintained his pre-tournament statement that these were matches to give squad players experience, and he selected a side to negate the flair of the South Americans, yet at the same

time a side in which he dared to blood a new goalkeeper and to give only a second cap to the right back, Earl Barrett.

The goalkeeping change was boldness personified. Tim Flowers, as positive a character as you might find, actually relished being handed his first cap against one of the finest attacks on earth. He is the 28th new player introduced by Taylor, and with solid inner confidence, he made three first-half saves that kept hope flowing in English veins.

Either because the goalkeeper was in more assured mood than Chris Woods had been, or because they rose to the challenge, the men in front of him gave Brazil fewer

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	1	2	0	5	4	4
Germany	2	1	1	0	7	6	3
United States	3	1	0	2	5	8	2
England	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

RESULTS: United States 0, Brazil 2; United States 2, England 0; Brazil 3, Germany 2; Brazil 1, England 1; United States 3, Germany 4.

MATCH TO COME: June 18: England v Germany.

chances than against Germany.

England were rugged, nobody more crudely so than David Platt, whose attempts to get to grips with the daring Valdeir sometimes came closer to rugby league stiff-arm tackles than football. However, with Andy Sinton sensibly filling in gaps in midfield, England stayed alive despite the fact that Nigel Clough gave wretchedly poor support to Wright.

Competent, harassing, playing for their international careers and, one hopes, for their beleaguered manager, England nevertheless required a stroke of fortune in the seventh minute when Rai betrayed his flair by missing a simple goal. Dunga had split England's defence with a 30-

yard ball through the middle. Elivelson then added confusion with a deft flick through, and Rai had only Flowers to beat. The tall Brazilian seemed to take an age to control the ball beneath his feet, Flowers manfully narrowed the angle, and Rai's shot tamely struck the goalkeeper.

England's belief, nevertheless, was growing, and the statistics of the last dozen years show that Brazil had not beaten England since 1961. Indeed, they had not scored twice against England for 24 years.

So, when Platt did his conjuring trick so soon after replacing Batty, we wondered, and we hoped that England's recent nightmare could be a thing of the past. Platt's goal came after a corner on the right. The ball was played deep to Sinton who, with the neatness that is his trademark, chipped the ball up towards the penalty spot. There, arriving with the timing that Platt has perfected, the talisman of Taylor's teams stole between two defenders and made contact with a looping header.

Brazil were stung into retaliation, though it did not come until the 76th minute. The equaliser came from a corner. Almir, yet another substitute from Sao Paulo, struck the ball high for the head of Falhinha, and from his knock-down the centre back, Santos, completely unmarked six yards out, helped himself to the goal.

BRAZIL: Taffarel (Goalkeeper); Jorginho (Goalkeeper); Valdeir (Sao Paulo); Marcelo Santos (Borussia Dortmund); Renato (Cruzeiro); Cidinho (Sao Paulo); Luisinho (Vasco da Gama); Peltinho (Sao Paulo); Dunga (Paranaense); Valdeir (Borussia Dortmund); Almir (Sao Paulo); Carlos (Napoli); Elivelson (Sao Paulo).

ENGLAND: T. Flowers (Goalkeeper); E. Barrett (Aston Villa); M. Wright (Manchester United); D. Walker (Sunderland); A. Dorrice (Leeds United); A. Sinton (Queens Park Rangers); D. Batty (Leeds United); D. Platt (Aston Villa); P. Ince (Manchester United); C. Palmer (Sheff Wednesday); L. Sharp (Aston Villa); J. Wright (Aston Villa); N. Clough (Leeds United).

Referee: H. Davies.

Cleared for take-off at Crystal Palace



High flier: Dalton Grant on his way to victory at the British athletics championships at Crystal Palace yesterday. Grant cleared 2.25m on a day when many of Britain's top athletes staked claims for inclusion in the team for the European Cup. Report, page 28. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Jones may have to leave Lions

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN NEW PLYMOUTH

THE British Isles, down but by no means disheartened by the 20-18 loss of the first international with New Zealand in Christchurch on Saturday, moved here yesterday with doubts surrounding Robert Jones's ability to complete the tour.

Jones, the Swansea scrum half and a veteran of 46 Welsh internationals, has been suffering from a chest infection. The Lions have been in touch with the Scotland party in Western Samoa and Andy Nicol, captain of the side beaten 28-11 in Apia yesterday, is due to fly to Auckland today to stand by if tests on Jones indicate he is needed.

Meanwhile, the Lions will introduce two of their latest replacements, Vinny Cunningham and Martin Johnson, in game here on Wednesday against Taranaki.

New Zealand will be forced to change their XV after Walter Little, the centre, damaged a medial ligament which will keep

him out of the second international in Wellington on June 26 and probably the third a week later, too.

This will give the All Blacks selectors the chance to bring back their record try-scorer, John Kirwan. Their options include moving Eroni Clarke from the right wing to his familiar position of centre and giving Kirwan his 55th cap, or bringing in Matthew Cooper or Lee Stensness as a straight replacement.

"Psychologically the players are up," Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach, said. "They felt they had the game longer it went on. The back row was outstanding, we were first to most things and we were very positive once we got the ball."

"But now we have to win the second Test, full stop. The players have got the experience of playing in an All Blacks Test match under their belt and they will respond as they did in the second half of Saturday's match. They know now that in a Test you only get a couple of chances and when they come you have to take them."

The form of Gavin Hastings, the Lions captain, has been encouraging throughout but his goal-kicking on Saturday compelled McGeechan to compare him with the two most consistent kickers in world rugby, Michael Lynagh and Grant Fox, whose boot turned Saturday's game.



Jones: infection

Lions beaten, page 22

Foster goes weak at the knees as he answers England's call

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE outcome of a week of soul-searching among those responsible for England's cricket fortunes is that Neil Foster will replace Philip DeFreitas in the second Test match at Lord's on Thursday. As a response to one of the longest losing runs suffered by the national side, it will prompt neither the fear of the Australians nor the favour of the public.

On the face of it, England have substituted a self-confessed old crock for a habitual under-achiever and left the rest of the Old Trafford losers intact. Foster is a bowler of class but he is also 31 and bedevilled by knees, which have required regular surgery and constant nursing.

He is bowling well, despite having taken only 12 wickets at 49 apiece this summer, and the selectors were not deterred by his petulant kick at the stumps last Thursday, for which DeFreitas was about to fine him. Seeking, as they are, more passion in the team, it may even have weighed in Foster's favour.

But his return, four years after deciding to take a South African cheque because his future was so uncertain, is as much an indictment of England's bowling poverty as it is a tribute to Foster's endurance.

"This is a new chance for me but I can't say yet that it's the beginning of something long term," Foster said. "I need to be successful early on. I don't regret the South African tour which led to a Test ban. I had a decision to make at that time and I made it. I am grateful to have another opportunity."

To begin and end the team changes with this hints darkly of complacency and of selectors with heads buried in the sand. Perhaps on this occasion, however, they deserve sympathy more than censure, for their options were limited by issues of loyalty and fitness. There are also strong indications that a repeat of the defeat, and defeatism, seen in Manchester will not be tolerated.

Ted Dexter, chairman of the England committee, said: "There was disappointment at some elements of the performance and these observations will be made clear to the players prior to the game at Lord's." The players' ears may well be burning by Thursday morning, indeed, for Dexter himself intends to join Graham Gooch and Keith Fletcher during the preparations and all three will say their piece.

In being left out of the side for the fifteenth and possibly last time, DeFreitas can feel aggrieved at being the scapegoat. Chris Lewis and Phil Tufnell should have joined him; Michael Atherton and Mike Gatting could have.



Foster: bowler of class

	Age	Tests
G A Gooch (Essex, capt)	35	102
M A Atherton (Leeds)	25	24
M W Gifford (Aldershot)	36	73
R A Smith (Hants)	29	41
G A Hick (Worcestershire)	27	16
A J Cresswell (Surrey)	30	27
C C Lewis (Nottinghamshire)	25	19
A R Coadwell (Somerset)	24	1
M C Ball (Essex)	22	0
P G R Tufnell (Middlesex)	27	14
P M Such (Essex)	23	23
N A Foster (Essex)	31	28

Lewis is the luckiest of those reprieved. It is one thing to have had a poor Test match, it is another to have performed with an apparent absence of professional pride. At least one selector wanted him left out on a point of principle. He survived on expediency, because the balance of the team would be altered completely by his omission.

If this is a last chance for Lewis, as it must be, time is also short for Tufnell to restore the guile and conviction to his bowling. On a turning pitch in Manchester, he scarcely worried the Australians and, as ever when things go against him, his body language was vividly unhelpful.

Tufnell's place might have gone to Ian Salisbury, whose leg-spin almost inspired a remarkable England win against Pakistan at Lord's a year ago. But Salisbury, along with five of the serious seam bowling contenders, was ruled out by injury, a situation which Dexter understated as "frustrating".

The batting was seen in a different light, the reluctance to make changes justified by the established policy of always giving players more than one game. The logic of this can be challenged,

though, as all the top six batsmen were on the tour of India last winter. Their capabilities and limitations are well known and Gatting, at least, is fortunate to win another cap against the claims of David Gower and Mark Lathwell.

Lathwell is unlikely to wait much longer for his Test debut. He has probably waited too long already. But the case for Gower's left-handedness countering the threat of Shane Warne made little impression on the selectors.

According to Dexter: "It is by no means clear how it would be easier for a left-hander to score runs against leg-spin when the ball is pitching in other bowlers' footmarks." So if Gower does come back, it will be on class, not stance.

For Jack Russell, the road back remains closed. The selectors devoted no time to his claims, maintaining, against all available evidence, that Alec Stewart can successfully combine the roles of batting and wicketkeeping.

Stewart will continue to bat at No 6 and Foster will be a straight swap for DeFreitas at No 8. The last place will be picked in other bowlers' footmarks. So if Gower does come back, it will be on class, not stance.

Durham recorded their first win against county opposition since August 9 last year when they beat Middlesex, the Sunday league champions, by six wickets at Gateshead Fell yesterday.

McDermott toils, page 25
Sussex win again, page 25

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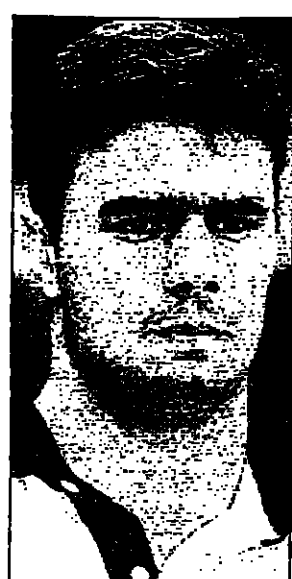
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Two knockdowns do not mean the fight is out of reach



Clarke: form forward

New Zealand are one of the top countries in world rugby. Yet in the closing stages at Lancaster Park we genuinely felt the All Blacks had gone, that they were running out of ideas and that, at 18-17 and barring something stupid happening, we had done sufficient to win.

To have it removed from our grasp by a decision that we could not understand was extremely disappointing. We had fought back particularly well in the second half, remembering that we had turned round 11-9 down to play into a significant wind; so well, in fact, that we were in the lead with only a few minutes to go, thanks to a wonderful kick by Gavin Hastings, from an acute angle and across the wind.

Two tough decisions by the referee cost us eight points in a match that we always knew would

be tight. I have been involved in quite a few like that — with England, with the Lions in Australia in 1989 — and I know how little can be left to chance. But the try at the finish cost us dear although I must say that generally, Brian Kinsey's refereeing was good.

We came off knowing how close we had run the All Blacks and that, but for an isolated decision and a world-class goalkicker, we would now be one up in the series. Those of us who were in Australia four years ago have been there before: we won that series from the same position and there is no reason why we cannot do it here. That is not an idle boast, it's a genuine statement of the confidence in the party.

We had a poor start. There was a nervousness during the morning in our hotel despite all the experi-



The Lions can overcome a disappointing start and take the series in New Zealand. Rob Andrew, their stand-off half, believes

ence among the players, and the All Blacks settled more quickly. Two rucks, a kick and a try all within two minutes must have done wonders for them. It felt a bit like the match England played against New Zealand to open the 1991 World Cup, when we spent so long trying to get into the game.

That edginess was evident in the first quarter. For example, we had targeted John Timu at full back as one area of attack, but we failed to do it effectively. One reason for that was the lineout, where we did not function very well in the first half at this level there are so few scrums that the lineout is an absolutely

crucial area and we did not win some of our own attacking lineouts.

When opportunities came to run the ball in broken play, we failed to put the passes together. That was the tension of the occasion — our handling on tour has been one of the impressive features of our play but here, in the international, the atmosphere got to us and poor passes, simply, meant two lost chances.

Going 14-9 down into the breeze early in the second half might have finished a lot of sides. But we didn't panic. The wind forced a subtle tactical change: we had to keep the

ball in hand more, we started running into midfield and carrying the game to New Zealand.

But because there were so many penalties in that third quarter of the game it broke up the pattern. Gavin and Grant Fox kicked at goal five times in that period and as both of them take some time to tee up the ball there was no fluidity about the play.

Nor could we win the quick second-phase ball we wanted to release the backs on a genuine overlap. The New Zealanders are very good at slowing down production of the ball, whether legally or illegally, even though on this occasion they were penalised more often than they are accustomed to from their own referees. Rory Underwood had a couple of good runs but we left him with just too much to do each time and Timu defended well.

Our back row was outstanding, involved all the time; you could be sure that as soon as you had made your tackle Dean Richards would be there, turning their man or ripping ball off him.

Ben Clarke has been the form forward of the tour. He hasn't worried where he's played, he's very athletic, he's got good ball skills and New Zealanders have recognised his talent. But, like the rest of us, he was so frustrated that we could have been talking about how we took the lead in the series with so much improvement to come.

We have proved we can stop the All Blacks performing in the vital areas around the fringes and in midfield and that has got to continue. If we focus on our own game and get that right it could be 1989 all over again.

Interview by David Hands

Fox forces Lions to pay heavy penalty

New Zealand.....20
British Isles.....18

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN CHRISTCHURCH

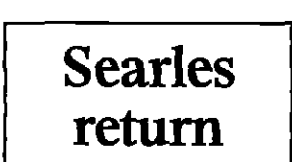
SCENICALLY the South Island of New Zealand has much to offer but the British Isles were in no mood to admire it as they flew north from here yesterday. They had braced themselves for a penalty goal that might win the first international for the All Blacks at Lancaster Park on Saturday and, when it duly arrived, Grant Fox kicked it.

But the mood among the players was self-critical too. They had one hand on a 1-0 lead in the three-match series and let it slip, as much through their own inadequacies as any controversial decisions by Brian Kinsey, the Australian referee.

The argument will rage on over Frank Bunce's try and the penalty conceded by Dean Richards in the 70th minute, but when the Lions needed accurate, precise rugby they could not play it.

The nervous, error-ridden nature of the game was not the fault of Kinsey, who kept a grip on proceedings. But when the chips were down, the wheel spun New Zealand's way; Bunce's try, in the second minute, was awarded on the direction of Andrew Cole, the Australian touch judge, as Kinsey admitted he did not see the touchdown.

As a garrulous of pinpoint



Kinsey: controversial

accuracy from Fox descended on the Lions line, Iwan Evans felt he had as much control on the ball as Bunce and even the slow-motion camera's evidence was inconclusive. Enough, you might have thought, to raise doubts that the score was legitimate.

A penalty in the final minute of the first half gave New Zealand an 11-9 lead at the interval, but when Richards tackled Bunce with time running out and the Lions clinging to an 18-17 advantage all seemed well, with the ball emerging on the Lions' side. Richards, however, was penalised for not attempting to move away from the tackled player, regardless of the fact that he was pinned to the ground. Geoff Cooke, the Lions manager, said with some restraint that it was a "strange decision".

Kinsey argued that he had no option and that earlier in the game he had twice penalised Michael Jones for the same offence. Another referee might not have awarded the Lions a penalty when Gavin Hastings was blocked in pursuit of his own chip and made the most of it. But it is hard for the Lions to come within sight of the promised land and then to find it to be a mirage.

During the match Fox passed 1,000 points for his country, evidence enough of how his goal-kicking has underpinned the All Blacks during the last nine years. Even on an outstanding playing surface and with the breeze at his back, the fifth of his penalties was a pressure kick of huge dimensions; but if you had to put a mortgage on a kicker scoring from over 40 metres, you would put it on Fox.

Earlier in the half he had been booed for trying a dropped goal with his three-quarters stretching away outside him. The sound appeared to have a disconcerting effect on the All Blacks, who were as relieved as their supporters that they had played so indifferently yet snatched victory by a try and five penalties to six penalties. Now the Lions



Rampaging Lion: Morris, the British Isles scrum half, makes a break during the first international. Burnell, left, prepares to offer support

have to repeat their comeback feat of 1989 in Australia.

Yet they shared a pitch with New Zealand and saw them reduced to human stature. Their belief now is that the All Blacks have limited options behind the scrum and that if the Lions can produce the delightful handling so evident in their first four matches, victory in the series is not out of reach.

Twice in the first half, around their own 22, the Lions saw space in which to release their wings but could not pass the ball in front of a colleague. Nothing is more fundamental in rugby. First it was Andrew and Guscott going right to

Evans, then it was Carling going left to Guscott and Underwood. On such moments results hang. In the second half, Underwood was denied by the magnificent tackling of Timu as the Lions punished long drop-outs by running them straight back.

Moreover, had the Lions been able to emulate the precision of Fox's tactical kicking, in the first quarter, Timu, with the wind and sun in his face, might have been severely embarrassed. But the kicking from half back was too low or too long and Timu even escaped unscathed when he knocked on in his own in-goal area.

Hastings claimed his place in Lions history by becoming the first player to kick six penalties for them in an international. In doing so, he also equalled the points-scoring record of Tony Ward in the first international against South Africa in 1980. He missed twice into the wind and watched as parts of his team's game came together but not the whole. "We have yet to put together an 80-minute game," Cooke said.

The back row, where Ben Clarke's versatility will be the talking point of the tour, was magnificent in defence, but too much revolves around Martin Bayfield at the lineout. In that

phase the Lions gradually lost their influence in the second half, largely because of the dominance of Robin Brooke, but the All Blacks could make nothing of their advantage, such was the Lions' mid-field defence. Yet the feeling remains that this was a golden opportunity for the Lions. It may not come again.

SCOTLAND: New Zealand: T. Bunce (Penalty goals: Fox (6), British Isles: Penalty goals: Hastings (6). NEW ZEALAND: J. K. Timu (Capt); E. Clarke (Auckland), F. E. Bunce (North Harbour), W. K. Little (North Harbour), R. M. A. Cooke (Wellington), V. L. Tait (Auckland), G. J. Fox (Auckland), A. D. Buchanan (North Harbour), C. W. Dowd (Auckland), S. B. F. Fitzpatrick (Auckland), O. M. Brown (Auckland), J. W. Joseph (Auckland), I. D. Jones (North Harbour), R. M. Brodie (Auckland), M. N. Jones (Auckland), Z. V. Brooke (Auckland). Referee: S. Kinsey (Australia).

BRITISH ISLES: A. G. Hastings (Penalty goals: Fox (6), British Isles: Penalty goals: Hastings (6). NEW ZEALAND: J. K. Timu (Capt); E. Clarke (Auckland), F. E. Bunce (North Harbour), W. K. Little (North Harbour), R. M. A. Cooke (Wellington), V. L. Tait (Auckland), G. J. Fox (Auckland), A. D. Buchanan (North Harbour), C. W. Dowd (Auckland), S. B. F. Fitzpatrick (Auckland), O. M. Brown (Auckland), J. W. Joseph (Auckland), I. D. Jones (North Harbour), R. M. Brodie (Auckland), M. N. Jones (Auckland), Z. V. Brooke (Auckland). Referee: S. Kinsey (Australia).

□ Jean-Francois Tordo, to have plastic surgery and 50 stitches in his nose and cheek after being stamped on during his side's 12-6 victory over Western Samoa on Saturday. Tordo underwent an hour and 40 minutes of surgery under general anaesthetic.

Diary, page 16

Scotland finish tour with defeat

Western Samoa.....28
Scotland.....11

FROM ALAN LORIMER
IN APUA

SCOTLAND struggled to stay the pace against Western Samoa at Rugby Park here on Saturday and were well beaten in the final match of their tour of the South Pacific.

Western Samoa were the best side Scotland have met on the tour, using their mobile forwards to set up second and third-phase possession to release their strong-running backs.

The Scots were fortunate that their line was crossed only three times. That was due, in part, to mistakes by the Samoans but also because of some trenchant tackling by the inside centre, Ian Jardine.

At outside centre, Scott Nichol looked insecure in defence and his missed tackles led to both Western Samoa's tries in the first half, scored by Vaega and Kaleopa. But the root cause of Scotland's defeat was their inability to win good lineout ball.

While Western Samoa used their back row to drive at the Scotland defence, the Scots were more subdued and rarely had any momentum. On the back foot for most of the match, Gregor Townsend showed promise at stand-off half.

Scotland, who scored a pushover try credited to Andy Nicol, did well to be 12-8 down at half-time, but three penalties by Keller extended Western Samoa's lead. Even when Townsend put over a second penalty, there seemed little prospect of Scotland's fortunes improving.

They did not and a third Western Samoa try, by the left wing, Lima, converted from the touchline by Keller emphasised the gap between the two sides.

SCOTLAND: New Zealand: T. Bunce (Penalty goals: Fox (6), British Isles: Penalty goals: Hastings (6). NEW ZEALAND: J. K. Timu (Capt); E. Clarke (Auckland), F. E. Bunce (North Harbour), W. K. Little (North Harbour), R. M. A. Cooke (Wellington), V. L. Tait (Auckland), G. J. Fox (Auckland), A. D. Buchanan (North Harbour), C. W. Dowd (Auckland), S. B. F. Fitzpatrick (Auckland), O. M. Brown (Auckland), J. W. Joseph (Auckland), I. D. Jones (North Harbour), R. M. Brodie (Auckland), M. N. Jones (Auckland), Z. V. Brooke (Auckland). Referee: S. Kinsey (Australia).

Searles return to form

THE Olympic champions, Greg and Jonny Searles, with their cousin, Garry Herbert, returned to top form at the Paris international regatta on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes). They won the coxed pairs, going past the Albagnale brothers from Italy, and a new French combination in the last 500 metres.

However, the brothers were unable to repeat their efforts yesterday, when they were beaten by the Italians.

The Searles' success was not matched by their fellow Olympic gold medal-winners, Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, in the coxed pairs. Pinsent's sickness forced the pair to withdraw from the final, the gold medal being taken by Van Driessche and Goiris of Belgium.

A night's rest eliminated Pinsent's gastro-enteritis and the British pair won in style yesterday.

Trinity Hall take headship again

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TRINITY Hall rowed over with ease on Saturday to take the men's headship of the Cambridge University May races for the second year running and give them domination of the college bumps.

They have also been head of the Lentis this year and last. Their challengers, Jesus, never troubled the head boat and were 2½ lengths behind at the line but well away from Downing, who held off Lady Margaret. Lady Margaret could only get to within a canvas of the Pike and Eel and so failed to get their oars by going up every night.

In the women, Jesus finished head, again never being troubled by the deposed head boat, Lady Margaret, who failed to make it three in a row and were 2½ lengths adrift at the line. Third-placed Emmanuel subsided at the Railings. Newnham, this year celebrating their centenary, which inspired the graffiti on the side of the railway bridge, "NBCB from corsets to lycra 1893-1993".

Men
FIRST DIVISION: 1st and 3rd Trinity bpd

Pembroke; 2nd bpd Magdalene; 3rd bpd St Catherine's; 4th bpd Corpus Christi bpd Selwyn.
SECOND DIVISION: Queens' bpd Robinson; Peterhouse bpd Sidney Sussex; King's bpd 1st and 3rd Trinity; Emmanuel; 2nd bpd Churchill; 3rd bpd Trinity; 4th bpd Magdalene; 5th bpd Selwyn; 6th bpd Trinity; 7th bpd Pembroke; 8th bpd Jesus; 9th bpd Emmanuel; 10th bpd Corpus Christi; 11th bpd St Catherine's; 12th bpd Trinity; 13th bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 14th bpd Peterhouse; 15th bpd Sidney Sussex; 16th bpd Emmanuel; 17th bpd Corpus Christi; 18th bpd St Catherine's; 19th bpd Trinity; 20th bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 21st bpd Peterhouse; 22nd bpd Sidney Sussex; 23rd bpd Emmanuel; 24th bpd Corpus Christi; 25th bpd St Catherine's; 26th bpd Trinity; 27th bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 28th bpd Peterhouse; 29th bpd Sidney Sussex; 30th bpd Emmanuel; 31st bpd Corpus Christi; 32nd bpd St Catherine's; 33rd bpd Trinity; 34th bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 35th bpd Peterhouse; 36th bpd Sidney Sussex; 37th bpd Emmanuel; 38th bpd Corpus Christi; 39th bpd St Catherine's; 40th bpd Trinity; 41st bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 42nd bpd Peterhouse; 43rd bpd Sidney Sussex; 44th bpd Emmanuel; 45th bpd Corpus Christi; 46th bpd St Catherine's; 47th bpd Trinity; 48th bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 49th bpd Peterhouse; 50th bpd Sidney Sussex; 51st bpd Emmanuel; 52nd bpd Corpus Christi; 53rd bpd St Catherine's; 54th bpd Trinity; 55th bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 56th bpd Peterhouse; 57th bpd Sidney Sussex; 58th bpd Emmanuel; 59th bpd Corpus Christi; 60th bpd St Catherine's; 61st bpd Trinity; 62nd bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 63rd bpd Peterhouse; 64th bpd Sidney Sussex; 65th bpd Emmanuel; 66th bpd Corpus Christi; 67th bpd St Catherine's; 68th bpd Trinity; 69th bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 70th bpd Peterhouse; 71st bpd Sidney Sussex; 72nd bpd Emmanuel; 73rd bpd Corpus Christi; 74th bpd St Catherine's; 75th bpd Trinity; 76th bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 77th bpd Peterhouse; 78th bpd Sidney Sussex; 79th bpd Emmanuel; 80th bpd Corpus Christi; 81st bpd St Catherine's; 82nd bpd Trinity; 83rd bpd Queens' bpd Robinson; 84th bpd Peterhouse; 85th bpd Sidney Sussex; 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German completes tournament at Queen's by winning final in record time

Stich quick to dismiss Ferreira's challenge

Stuart Jones watches a former Wimbledon champion conclude his preparations with victory

MICHAEL Stich went to work in his temporary office at the Queen's Club yesterday and collected £55,484 in less than an hour. The extravagant sum was not so much earned, during the final of the Stella Artois tennis championships, as handed over to him by a friendly foe.

Wayne Ferreira, his opponent, is also his doubles and practice partner. The South African was the holder of the title too, and he let go of it so swiftly and so easily that cynics might have suspected collusion was afoot. The final was the quickest in the history of the tournament.

In 1980, John McEnroe humiliated Kim Warwick for the loss of a mere four games in 61 minutes. Stich, in spite of being broken when he first served for the match, still had four minutes to spare when he won it 6-3, 6-4.

Ferreira is renowned for his returns but, until he rallied briefly when he was 5-1 down in the second set, he had taken only 10 points off Stich's serve. Three of those were double faults. For the bemused and dispirited South African, it was all over before he had started.

Partially to blame was his morning warm-up or, rather, lack of it. In the week before the tournament he had been practising with Stich. A suitable replacement was found for yesterday but he arrived inconveniently late and Ferreira, who diplomatically refused to name his unreliable assistant, had to seek instead the help of relative strangers

on a nearby court. "I didn't start well," Ferreira said, "and by the end of the second set I didn't think I'd played a game. I wasn't serving hard enough and I wasn't volleying well. It all happened so quickly. It felt as though it was over in a minute."

It was not as if Ferreira did not know what to expect. He appreciated the theory but could not put it into practice, especially midway through the first set. Then, from 3-3, he won only one of the next eight games and only from a position of desperation did he momentarily halt the decline.

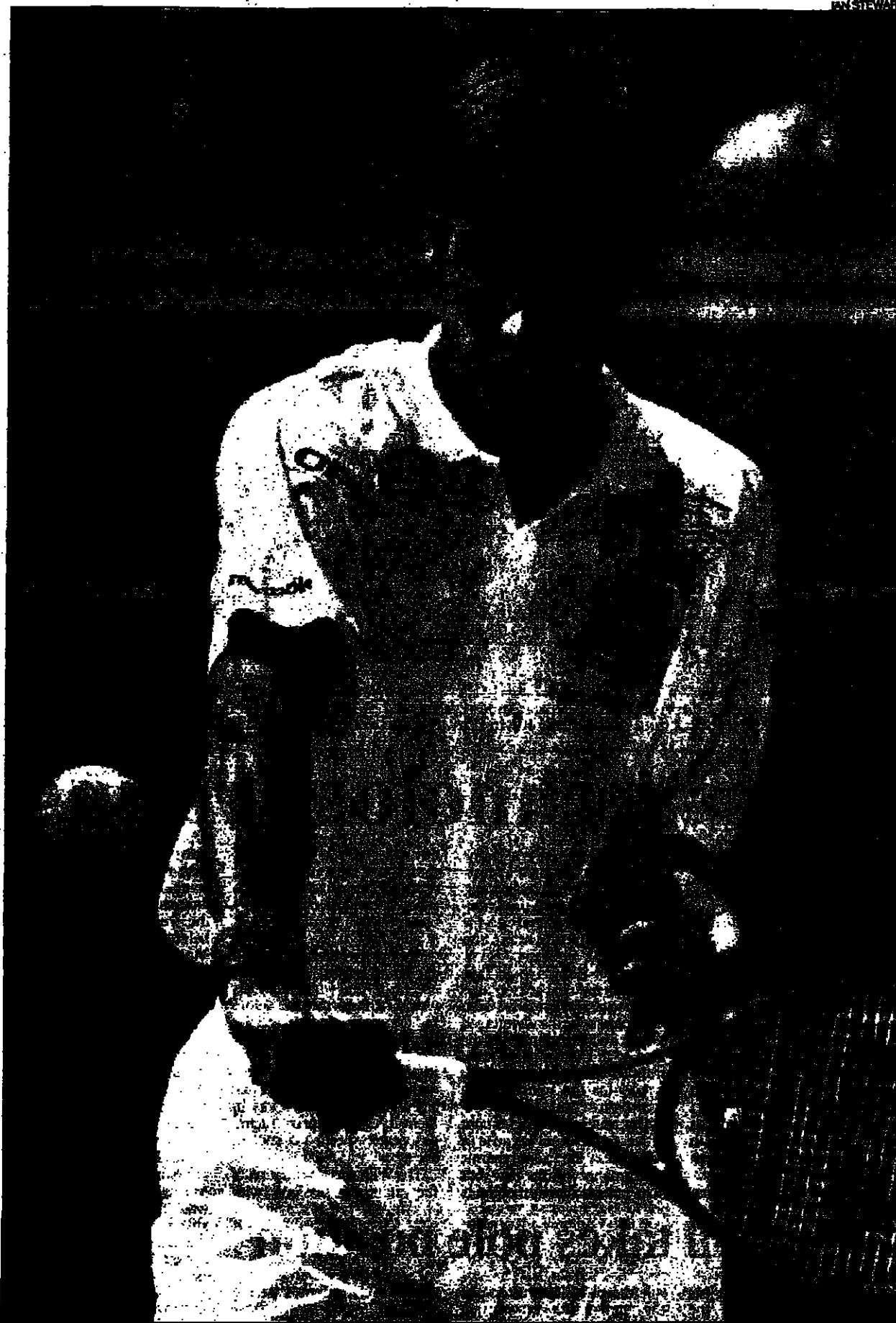
Stich's appraisal was no less damning. "It was a strange match," he said, "not a good one. He got off on the wrong foot and didn't get into it. I played a decent match, nothing spectacular but good enough to win." He did, though, offer an excuse for his partner's unexpected failings.

He cited the conditions. The centre court, described by Jeremy Bates on the opening day as "lightning fast", had slowed and the bounce was higher. Consequently, the opening games featured many a mishap. One veered off Stich's racket and struck the top balcony of the picturesque clubhouse.

A few yards to the right and it would have been within the reach of Princess Diana, one of a host of dignitaries and celebrities invited to the occasion. Life moments, and there more than a few of those, were spent scanning the crowd for sightings of the likes of Roger Moore, Diana Rigg and Catherine Zeta Jones.

Pointedly, Stich, with an exclusively spectator's vision, were apparently completed within a couple of blows. Stich, responding to a suggestion that the spectacle might have appeared to be less than riveting, countered with the general comment: "If people think that [tennis on grass] is boring, they wouldn't watch."

Inevitably, he will be one of the centres of attention next week. Then he will be attempting to match the feats of McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Boris Becker, the only three players to have won at both Queen's and Wimbledon in the same year. No one



Winning way: Stich plays a backhand during his victory over Ferreira at Queen's Club yesterday.

has done so since Becker in 1985. Ferreira believes that his doubles partner is "one of the guys you would think will win". Stich, who had to save four match points in his semi-final against Jamie Morgan on Saturday, says that any one of ten contenders could do so. Last week Becker reckoned there were only five realistic challengers.

Nobody was sure at the time whether or not the champion would be in the field. Yesterday the mystery seemed closer to being resolved. Andre Agassi, who has been unable to hit a ball for a couple of months because of tendinitis in the right wrist, is to make his comeback in the grass court tournament at Halle, Germany.

He is scheduled to resume tomorrow with a match which should not severely extend him. He has been drawn against Carl-Uwe Steeb, who has won only one match in five years at Wimbledon. Presumably Agassi goes through, he would then meet either Thomas Enqvist or Jonathan Stark.

There can still be no certainty that Agassi, after such a prolonged lay-off, will be fit enough to defend the Wimbledon title. Even if he is able to follow tradition and open the tournament next Monday, there must be a severe doubt as to whether he can, with so little build-up, retain it.

It was also the first time since 1985 that a Frenchman had won a grass-court tournament. Masur, the No 7 seed, earlier completed a 7-5, 7-6 win over MaliVai Washington, the No 3 seed, in their rain-delayed semi-final.

Arnaud Boetsch, of France, won the first international tournament of his career when he beat the Australian, Wally Masur, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the final of the Continental grass-court championship at Rosmalen, in Holland, yesterday.

It was also the first time since 1985 that a Frenchman had won a grass-court tournament. Masur, the No 7 seed, earlier completed a 7-5, 7-6 win over MaliVai Washington, the No 3 seed, in their rain-delayed semi-final.

McNeil defeats weary Garrison

By ALIX RAMSAY

LORI McNeil won her first Edgbaston title yesterday, beating the 1990 champion, Zina Garrison, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 to take the DFS tennis classic at the end of a difficult week of rain, delays and disputes.

It was anything but a sparkling match but, after two days indoors, both players relished the chance to get back on grass with only a week to go before Wimbledon.

The tournament had been forced under cover and both players had to play catch-up, completing their semi-finals in the morning before the 2pm start of the final. Garrison admitted to feeling tired as the match progressed.

Garrison had a rough weekend. On Saturday she won an ill-tempered match against Pam Shriver, the four-time champion and president of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) board. The more Shriver struggled in the 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 defeat, the more she became annoyed by Garrison's entourage. Feeling they were applauding her mistakes, Shriver slammed the ball into the small crowd and at Garrison, swore at Garrison's supporters and, at one point, called Garrison "stupid", none of which earned her so much as a warning from the umpire.

"She acted like a bitch," Garrison said afterwards, and claimed that the display had been based on racial prejudice, a claim Shriver vehemently denied while admitting that her behaviour had been unacceptable. In the heat of the moment Garrison considered resigning her place on the 12-strong WTA board.

"She's our leader and I don't know if I want to be a part of that any more," she said. But after the match yesterday she was still undecided what her next move would be.

"I haven't really thought about it," she said. "I've seen Pam once but I haven't talked to her. Then again, I wouldn't talk to me when I was preparing for a match. I have a tendency to look mean."

McNeil had her moments in the final, too, earning a code violation for ball abuse in the second set. Having lost her serve to go 3-1 down after a disputed line call, she thumped the ball over the stand. "It wasn't the first call he had missed," she said. But McNeil was able to put it behind her, coming back to win the third set. She broke Garrison in the opening game and held on to her advantage as both players fired. She broke again in the final game, with two forehand errors from Garrison wrapping it up. McNeil saw her win and her £17,500 cheque as a good omen for Wimbledon, noting how open the tournament is without Monica Seles in the field. "I was confident last year but I feel great now," she said.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: Z. Garrison (USA) vs C. Steeb (GER), 6-1, 6-2, 6-3; L. McNeil (USA) vs L. Harrison (AUS), 7-5, 6-4, 2-6. Final: L. McNeil vs Z. Garrison, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Graf and company retreat as age-old problem rears head

There is a cloud hanging over women's tennis at the moment. Steffi Graf has just won the women's singles in Paris, but the tournament was dominated by the absent Monica Seles. That at least would gratify her.

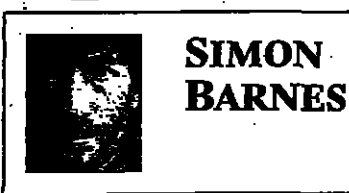
Seles was stabbed by a nutcase obsessed with Steffi Graf. He stabbed Seles so that she would win, a near fatal example of what happens when people take sport too seriously. With Wimbledon a mere fortnight away, we seem to be confronted with the problem of sex and the single superstar.

The grass-court season is with us, and the stars are all doing their Wimbledon prep. Martina Navratilova was escorted off court at Edgbaston on Saturday by four heavies. "An added twist to an old problem," she said. "Now when I'm going through crowds, I'm worrying about physical injury rather than discomfort."

Every public figure attracts nutcases: popes, presidents and pop stars. Obsessive love is self-destructive, and destructive of the love-object. A nutcase killed John Lennon out of love, after asking for his autograph earlier in the day. This was not the first nor will it be the last popular figure to die of love.

Jodie Foster, the film star, was another victim of obsession. When the famous actress is female, she is inevitably a target for the aggressive sexuality of male obsessives. Female tennis players, by the nature of their job, seem particularly prone to such weirdos, but the escalation of events with the Seles affair has drastically raised the stakes.

Odd game, tennis. It has always had a powerful under-



SIMON BARNES

current of sex. Miss Joan Hunter-Dunn, Gorgious Gussie Moran's knicker, Chris Evert's queenly mien, Steffi Graf's legs. I have read reams on these subjects, for everywhere you look in this game you find sex rearing its comely head. That, in a sense, is what tennis is for.

The game rose in popularity because it was accepted that respectable unmarried young men and young women could do it together. Unchaperoned.

Croquet had the same advantage, but tennis overtook it in popularity, no doubt because it is the more passionate, less calculating game.

Tennis players have become progressively more scantily clad over the years, but there remains that aura of respectability. The men, even "rebels" like Andre Agassi, wear collared shirts, not vests. Agassi wears contour hugging shorts, but with knee cotton shorts on top. That seems to say it all.

The women wear skirts and nice tops. Imagine the outcry there would be if a female tennis player dressed like a track and field athlete. We are not shocked by the sight of Sally Gunnett in a lycra leotard, but Steffi Graf in the same outfit would be an international event.

It would be front-page news all over the world if she did it at Wimbledon. After all, a comparatively obscure player called Anne White caused a sensation when she turned up in SW19 wearing a flashy but non-revealing ankle-and-wrist-length catsuit a few years back. Perhaps it is tennis's added ingredient of demureness that excites nutcases: who can say?

But one thing is clear enough. There is a male tendency to apportion blame. The male nutcase takes most of it, yes, but not 100 per cent. If you are an attractive woman running about with very few clothes on, some people will say that you "have to expect"

such a thing. Perhaps you do but the traditional male argument turns this into a kind of contributory negligence. And from that point, it is a short step to seeing it as a sign of consent.

And so, in two very short steps from the tennis court, we have moved within hailing distance of the old question: isn't a woman who sets out to look attractive "asking" to be violated? For this is one of the eternal male notions: that the raped woman is invariably consenting in her heart of hearts.

It is odious stuff. A woman has a right to lead her life and follow her profession in the manner of her choosing, whether she dresses like a nun, like Steffi Graf or like Sally Gunnett. That is, or should be, the end of the matter.

But right now, I feel sorry for all those strange young millionaires who make up the majority of the population of the world's top female tennis players. The life they lead is weird enough without nutcases. The Seles affair has made it ten times weirder. These talents have moved still further from real life.

The leading women players have been forced to take a further step towards isolation: towards a cotton-wool-padded life. Every one of them has been forced to move a step away from you and me, and a step towards Howard Hughes.

Such a life would send most of us at least half as crazy as those who threaten them. Those that survive and win and prosper should excite all kinds of admiration — for their quality of extraordinary mental strength.

Invincible Induráin cruises to victory

MIGUEL Induráin, the Spanish cycle racer, reinforced his reputation by winning the Giro d'Italia for the second year in a row yesterday. The world No 1 became the first rider since the Belgian, Eddie Merckx, to win the Giro two years running but what worries rivals such as the Latvian, Piotr Ugrumov, second overall, and the third-placed Claudio Chiappucci is that Induráin, 28, appeared to win without exertion.

Whenever he needed to apply himself, he always looked to be riding at a different level from his competitors. Chiappucci, King of the Mountains, said: "Even I am beginning to believe that he is unbeatable." Towards the end of the 21-stage race, Induráin insisted he was beginning to suffer, putting his apparently casual riding during the early stages down to fitness difficulties. "I was hurting in the big climbs in the Dolomites," he said. "I felt handicapped by my weight, which is 15 or 20 kilos more than my rivals."

Cup tickets in demand

FOOTBALL: Three thousand 1994 World Cup tickets sold out in four hours when they went on public sale on Saturday for first and second-round games in Chicago and Washington. The offer followed sold-out subscriptions to what organisers call the American "soccer family."

"It is clear that we will achieve our goal of selling every ticket to each of the 52 World Cup matches in 1994," Alan Rothenberg, chairman and chief executive officer of World Cup USA, said. Tickets went on sale yesterday at the seven other World Cup venues, Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Orlando and San Francisco.

Bulls take command

BASKETBALL: Michael Jordan scored 42 points on Friday to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 111-108 away win over the Phoenix Suns for a commanding 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven National Basketball Association championship series. The play-off resumed last night in Chicago, where the Bulls are seeking two wins in three games to take their third successive title. Charles Barkley, the most-valuable player during the season, led the Suns with 42 points and 13 rebounds, but Jordan had plenty of help from Horace Grant (24 points) and Scottie Pippen (15 points, 12 rebounds).

Home alone for France

RUGBY LEAGUE: After a record 72-6 defeat by Great Britain in April, France have withdrawn from the away leg of the traditional two-match series next season (Christopher Irvine writes). The countries will play once, in France, on April 10. Lack of finance is blamed, although the French will travel to play Wales in February. The county cups have been dropped from the 1993-4 programme and the two leading knockout tournaments both feature new-style first rounds, with the 16 second division clubs entertaining amateur opposition, plus two French club sides, in the Regal Trophy.

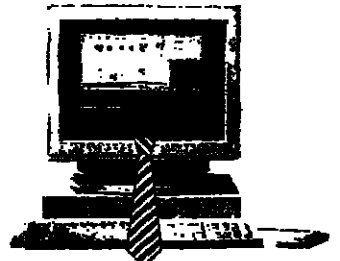
Allen holds off Lessing

TRIATHLON: Mark Allen, of the United States, held off Simon Lessing, of Britain, the world champion, to win the Nice competition for the tenth time yesterday. Allen, 35, who won the world championship six times, struggled to shake off Lessing, who lives in France, in the closing stages of the 32km road race. Yves Cordier, of France, had to give up during the final discipline when he led Allen and Lessing by 7min 30sec. He completed the 4km of swimming and 120km of cycling with an eight-minute lead. Isabelle Mounthou, of France, won the women's event.

Cousins secure victory

POWERBOATING: David and Chris Allenby, the cousins from Chandler's Ford, won their second United Kingdom Offshore Boating Association grand prix in succession when they sped to victory at Newhaven yesterday in their 36ft catamaran, Assagai IV. They finished the 140-mile race at an average speed of 71.5mph in their class-two boat, well clear of the fleet. The victory gave them a 33-point advantage over their rivals in the eight-race championship. The toughest competition was in the 13 litre class, where 23 seconds covered the three leading boats home.

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McDermott's run without a wicket erodes his morale

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

BRISTOL (second day of three): Australia are 189 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

AMID the swagger and style of another dominant day for the touring Australians, who will seek to finish off Gloucestershire by an innings today and add to their earnings from the Telford Bitter Challenge, there was a crumb of comfort for England. Craig McDermott, the bowler on whom the Ashes were thought to depend, still cannot take a wicket and it is now officially conceded to be damaging his morale.

Wicketless, remarkably, in both innings of the victory in the first Test match at Old Trafford, McDermott bowled a further 18 overs in vain at Bristol on Saturday and was not used yesterday morning to mop up the Gloucestershire tail.

"His confidence is slightly low," Bob Simpson, the Australia coach, said "but these things go in cycles."

"Craig has had a great couple of years when any soft wickets around have gone his way. Now it is the other bowlers taking them and Craig is wondering what's going wrong. But he is still bowling well and it only needs one good day to put his confidence right."

McDermott's six first-class wickets on tour have cost 74 runs each. By contrast, Shane Warne has 32 at 18 apiece and the difference is obvious in their outlook.

While McDermott wonders where his next wicket is coming from, the charismatic Warne's main concern has been knowing that the next demand for an interview is only a few hours away.

Yesterday, the team management moved to arrest the situation, presenting Warne to the media at Bristol on the condition that he would not be available again in the foreseeable future.

Personable as ever, Warne talked of his engagement, this week, to a model, Simone Callahan, and of coping with such relentless attention that his hotel telephone has sometimes rung in the early hours.

"It is not visibly affecting him — I am still the same bloke I was a year or two ago — and it is plainly not affecting his bowling, even on English pitches commonly thought to be too slow for him."

"I learnt a lot on the slow surfaces in New Zealand," he said. "And I have also learnt that no matter what the pitch is like, batsmen can be beaten through the air."

Warne's self-belief is boundless. His second ball yesterday should have brought him a wicket. David Boon missing a catch at mid-wicket, but the relieved Jack Russell lasted only until Warne's next over, when he was caught behind, trying to sweep.

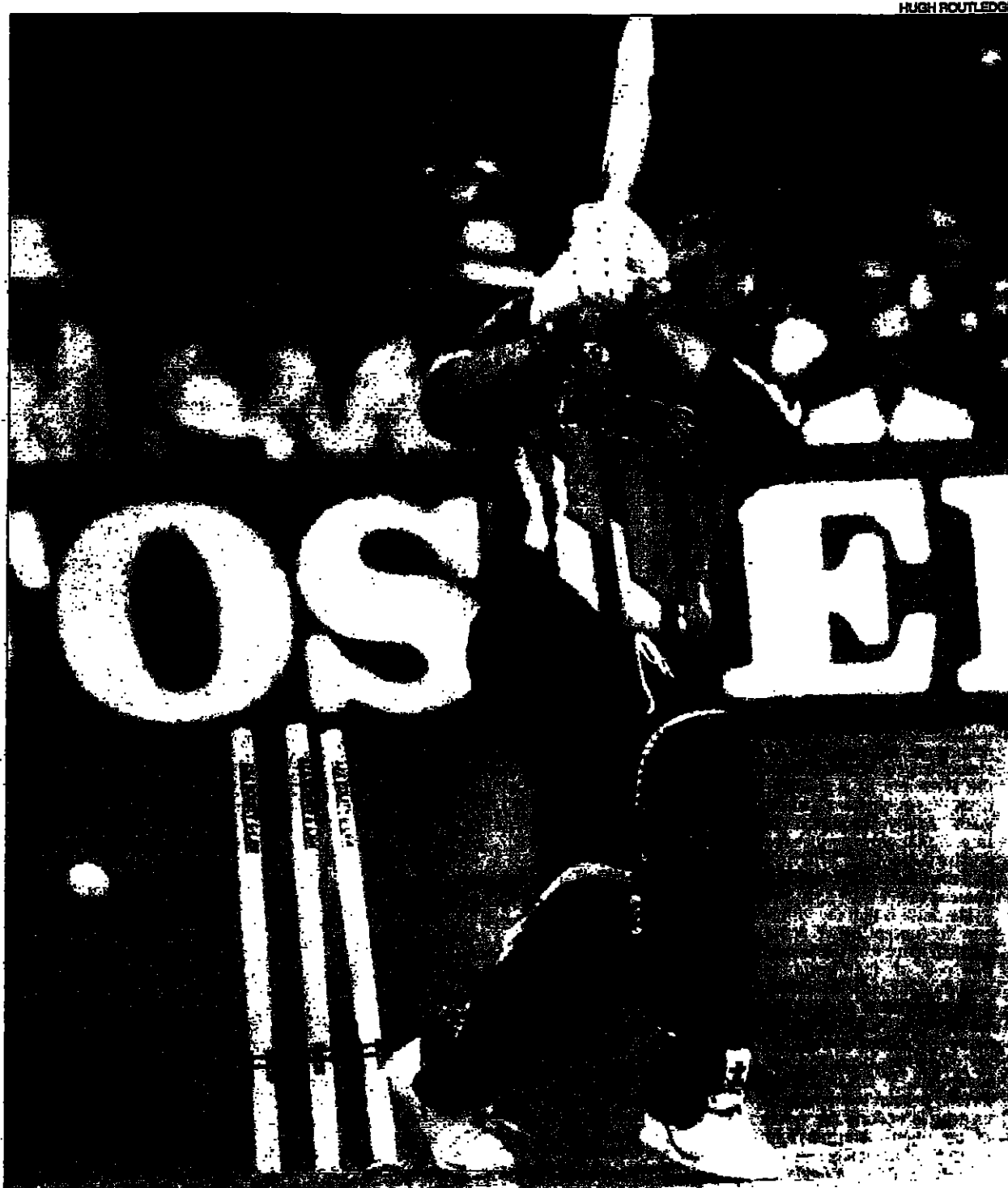
This completed a five-wicket return for only the fourth time in Warne's first-class career, but the potential for him to improve upon that record is seemingly limitless.

Russell was soon back on the field to keep wicket, doubtless cheered by one section of the healthy crowd brandishing a banner demanding his England recall. Australia's wicketkeeper, meanwhile, was in hospital.

Ian Healy has damaged his right thumb and an x-ray yesterday confirmed a chipped bone. He will take no further part in this match but is expected to be fit to take his place for the Lord's Test.

With Courtney Walsh operating at half-pace and only inexperienced seam bowling in support, the Australians were not extended to take a healthy lead. Averaging almost five runs an over, four of the top five scored between 50 and 70.

But Gloucestershire held their hero. It was two years ago, when still at school in Cheltenham, that Jason de la Pena made his county debut. A back injury has retarded his progress but he remains an interesting prospect, tall, high-actioned and lively of pace. Yesterday, he dismissed Taylor, Boon, Martyn and Steve Waugh. Many a 20-year-old would regard that as the stuff of dreams.



Fatal heave: Wood, of Hampshire, misses an extravagant drive at Penn, of Kent, at Basingstoke yesterday

Sprightly Wells leads Sussex home

By JACK BAILEY

HOVE (Sussex won toss): Sussex (4pts) beat Northamptonshire by five wickets

SUSSEX are past masters at the limited-over game and yesterday it showed. They defeated a Northamptonshire team, bristling with talent for this sort of contest, with two overs to spare.

In the end, it was a fine undefeated innings of 92 from 117 balls by Alan Wells, their captain, which drew the plaudits after the path had been paved by David Smith with his third Sunday score of over 50 this season. But an enthusiastic, well-planned contribution in the field, which Northamptonshire could not match, was equally responsible.

Sussex retain their shared place with Kent at the top of

the table and in doing so have overcome one of their nearest rivals. It may be early in the season, but there is no doubt that both teams saw yesterday's match as crucial.

Sussex with a share of top place and a game in hand over Kent, were looking for the undisputed lead: Northamptonshire had played only three matches and had dropped only two points, having like Sussex taken part in one of the two tied matches that have remarkably taken place already this season.

Northamptonshire could have wished for a better early boost to their aspirations. The loss of Felton to the fourth ball of the day, to a catch at second slip, and then Fordham, caught behind with only one run on the board, were potentially severe setbacks.

In fact, they served only to bring together Northampton-

shire's best strikers of the ball in the shape of Lamb and Bailey. The exuberant Stephenson, who had taken both early wickets, had a loud shout for leg-before against Lamb turned down was eventually to contribute to their downfall, however.

Nor could Northamptonshire match their opponents in the field. Too many misfields, the dropping of Smith behind the wicket, when he had made only ten and Sussex had already lost a wicket in scoring 15, were crucial elements in the outcome. Smith's 52 from 63 balls overcame an indifferent start and Wells went from strength to strength.

Greenfield helped him in a partnership of 95 in which deft play of the ball and excellent running between the wickets played a full part. Significantly, Wells — for all the briskeness of his innings — scored only five fours. For much of the rest of the time, he was busy running the Northamptonshire fielders ragged.

Curran eventually took up the reins, Capel and Penberthy made useful contributions and, with their well-equipped attack, Northampton-

Fleming helps Kent to stay on top

ONCE, upon hearing that Kent were leading the Sunday League — John Player in those days, which shows how long it is since they took that title — there was no necessity to ask which batsmen were to the fore. Brian Luckhurst and Asif Iqbal would often feature prominently on the scorecard. Substitute Trevor Ward and Matthew Fleming for those names and Kent's joint leadership with Sussex 20 years on becomes easier to understand.

Ward and Fleming open the batting for Kent in the Axa Equity & Law League these days. In the past, when they would have used lighter bats, they would have been known as dashers. At Basingstoke yesterday, they simply bludgeoned the Hampshire attack in a way that Luckhurst and Asif would not have recognised. There was no doubting the outcome once they had made their opening stand one of 107 from 13 overs.

Ward struck 112 off 91 balls, an innings that included six sixes and 12 fours. Fleming took just 37 balls to make 58. Luckhurst would deflect the ball around the square; Asif would chip it into unattended areas of the outfield. Only later in the innings might the ball be hit as it was here. What with Ealham, the son of another player from that era, taking six wickets, and Cover not playing owing to a continued discomfort from his cracked rib, Kent won with 16 overs to spare.

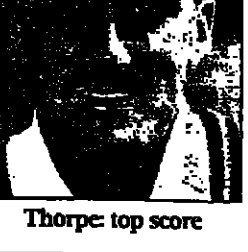
TABLE	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts
Kent (5)	5	4	1	0	1	18
Sussex (5)	5	3	0	0	2	18
Lancs (19)	5	3	0	0	2	12
Worcestershire (13)	5	2	1	1	12	12
Derbyshire (13)	5	2	1	0	10	10
Gloucestershire (16)	5	2	2	0	10	10
Nottinghamshire (11)	5	2	2	0	10	10
Northants (13)	4	2	1	0	10	10
Yorkshire (15)	4	2	1	0	10	10
Derham (9)	4	2	0	0	8	8
Essex (9)	4	2	0	0	8	8
Hampshire (5)	5	1	0	2	8	8
Lancs (11)	5	1	0	2	8	8
Surrey (4)	4	1	0	2	8	8
Warwick (8)	4	1	0	2	6	6
Glouce (8)	4	1	0	2	6	6
Notts (17)	4	1	0	2	4	4

At this stage of the season, though, leadership is not everything. Essex, for instance, are lagging down the table, but do not imagine that will be the case come September.

Their victory over Lancashire had much to do with the bowling of Such back at Old Trafford — and Iltot, who is also in England's party for the second Test this week. They took six wickets between them yesterday, and there were runs, too, for Gooch, who opted to bat down the order — 67 in 79 balls. At the Oval, Thorpe, who was again left out by England, made his first Sunday half-century of the season, but it was not enough to prevent Surrey being beaten by Glamorgan. His 75 included, surprisingly, just one four.

Deffenha, who learnt of his exclusion from the Test party during the match, cut a hand on a glass panel, which he broke, apparently accidentally, when he slipped on his way out of the pavilion. The start of play was delayed while his hand was bandaged.

At Galeshead Field, Durham gained their first victory against county opposition since August 9 last year. This was achieved, what was more, against the Sunday League champions, Middlesex. Tight bowling and fielding restricted them to 158 for seven and, although Durham were struggling on 54 for three, Baimbridge and Hutton put on 93 runs that brought about a six-wicket victory.



Thorpe: top score

Brannigan Assurance county championship

Durham v Middlesex

GATESHEAD, first day of four: Durham, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 245 runs ahead of Middlesex

DURHAM First Innings

1 T. Borthwick b Fraser 0
2 M. A. Atherton c Brown b Fraser 108
3 P. W. G. Parry b Fotherham 108
4 J. D. Leach c Brown b Fraser 108
5 P. B. Bates c Brown b Fraser 108
6 J. G. Clark c Brown b Fraser 108
7 J. C. Gurney c Brown b Fraser 108
8 J. W. D. Jones c Brown b Fraser 108
9 J. A. Gurney c Brown b Fraser 108
10 J. A. Gurney c Brown b Fraser 108

Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 3, nb 10) 27
Total (20.0 overs) 254

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-7, 3-27, 4-125, 5-124, 6-124, 7-158, 8-229, 9-233.

BOWLING: Williams 28-5-45-0; Fraser 24-5-45-0; Fotherham 18-5-21-0; Embury 3-1-28-0; Gurney 4-0-10-0; Turner 15-7-17-1.

Second Innings

1 T. Borthwick not out 5
2 W. G. Parry not out 5
Extras (b 5) 5
Total (no wicket) 11

BOWLING: Fraser 12-0-6-0; Fotherham 1-0-1-0.

Middlesex First Innings

Bonus points: Durham 1, Middlesex 4.
Umpires: B. Leachester and P. Wiley.

Lancashire v Essex

OLD TRAFFORD (third day of four): Lancashire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs ahead of Essex

LANCASHIRE First Innings

1 G. D. Mendel b Sturt 28
2 M. A. Atherton c Hogg b Sturt 46
3 N. J. Spink c Hogg b Sturt 41
4 G. D. Mendel not out 41
5 G. D. Mendel not out 41
Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 4) 4
Total (15 wickets) 129

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-48, 3-46.

BOWLING: Foster 28-5-25-0; Sturt 7-0-41-0; Sturt 10-0-2-0; Sturt 11-0-2-0.

Essex First Innings

1 G. A. Gooch b Sturt 66
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6 N. J. Spink b Sturt 66
7 N. J. Spink b Sturt 66
8 N. J. Spink b Sturt 66
9 N. J. Spink b Sturt 66
10 N. J. Spink b Sturt 66

Extras (b 10, w 1, nb 30) 41
Total (16 wickets, 78.3 overs) 304

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-117, 3-140, 4-142, 5-118, 6-237.

BOWLING: Williams 15-8-45-0; Fraser 24-5-45-0; Fotherham 18-5-21-0; Embury 3-1-28-0; Gurney 4-0-10-0; Turner 15-7-17-1.

Bonus points: Lancashire 5, Essex 7.
Umpires: J. D. Bond and B. J. Meyer.

Surrey v Glamorgan

THE OVAL (third day of three): Glamorgan, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 471 runs to beat Surrey

GLAMORGAN First Innings

1 S. P. James c Stewart b M. P. Bicknell 2
2 S. P. James c Stewart b M. P. Bicknell 2
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Viggers saved after fall from yacht

By Barry Pickthall

ONE crewman was swept overboard, two yachts hit a wreck off the Needles, another was dismasted and a fourth ran aground on Ryde Sands during an incident-packed race around the Isle of Wight on Saturday.

Paul Viggers MP slipped from his yacht in Freshwater Bay and was picked up safely five minutes later by the crew on Beattie, another of the 1,100 yachts competing in this annual 60-mile chase. More serious was the near sinking of Barracuda of Tarrant, which ran on to the wreck of the Greek ship, Varvassi.

The owner, Bob Fisher, and his crew managed to save the yacht after pumps were taken on board to stem the flow of water, and she was towed back to Lynnhurst for repairs.

Earlier, another yacht, Highland Lass, was dismasted in the rough waters of Hurst Narrows, and Indulgence, the British Admiral's Cup yacht of Graham Walker, skippered by Eddie Warden Owen, was one to touch bottom on Ryde Sands while cheating the tide on the way back to Cowes, but floated clear 15 minutes later.

First to finish was the Nigel Irens designed 40ft multihull, Fritz Fratzz, skippered by Andrew Hurst, and the monohulls were led home by Ted Todd's American entry, Eagle, which completed the course in just over six hours, 16 minutes outside the monohull record.

La Poste, the Whitbread maxi yacht, gained a four-minute victory over Grant Dalton's New Zealand Endeavour at the finish of the fifth stage of the UAP Round Europe race from Copenhagen.

RESULTS: Fifth stage (Copenhagen to Helsingør) Whitbread maxi class: 1. La Poste (D. Malle, Fr), 78h 07m; 2. New Zealand Endeavour (G. Dalton, NZ), 78h 11m; 3. Defender (S. Gullhaugen, Fr), 77h 45m; 4. Merit Cup (P. Fehrmann, Swi), 80h 55m; 5. Whitbread 40 class: 1. Gullhaugen (S. Gullhaugen, Fr), 77h 45m; 2. Brookstead (G. Malle, Fr), 81h 07m; 3. Island Lass (R. Nelson, Fr), 83h 07m; 4. Open class: 1. Vile de Charbourg (H. Mabin, Fr), 76h 07m; 2. Eagle (T. Todd, NZ), 76h 11m; 3. Eagle (T. Todd, NZ), 76h 11m; 4. Eagle (T. Todd, NZ), 76h 11m; 5. Eagle (T. Todd, NZ), 76h 11m.



Over the top: steeplechasers fly high and handsome as they clear the water jump in the Pearl British athletics championships at Crystal Palace yesterday

Britain's cup prospects brighten

British athletes give fine displays at Crystal Palace. David Powell, athletics correspondent, reports

BRITAIN'S hopes of winning the men's European Cup in Rome this month look markedly brighter than they did before the weekend, courtesy of fine performances from Curtis Robb, Mick Hill, Gary Cadogan and Linford Christie in the two-day Pearl British championships at Crystal Palace.

Christie's victory in the 100 metres on Saturday, which softened concern over his fitness, was followed yesterday by winning runs from Robb and Cadogan which should put their names in the team for Rome when it is announced today. Hill, meanwhile, suggested, with a javelin throw of 86.94 metres, that the injured Steve Backley will not be missed. Only Jan Zelezný, the world record-holder, has thrown further this year.

Furthermore, Tom McKean is understood to be training well and optimistic of winning a fifth successive European Cup title over 800 metres. McKean, the world indoor

champion, has been getting over influenza and has yet to race this season.

Robb was running his first 1,500 metres for three years and, though his time was not exceptional, it was the win he was after. A slow first lap ruined any chance of a fast time and it did not pick up much until Robb took it on with 550 metres to go. Only Simon Fairbrother, who finished third for Britain in the World Cup last September, had the strength to go with the Olympic 800 metres finalist.

With 200 metres to go, a slight gap appeared but Fairbrother would not give in and he pushed Robb every inch of the way down the home straight.

Robb, with a 54sec last lap, won in 3min 59.58sec, a victory which should give him the edge in selection over Fairbrother. He assured the selectors that he was not flat out. "I can go a good few seconds faster," he said.



David Powell

Cadogan, a former 400 metres runner, is in his first season as a 400 metres hurdler and has five wins out of five races so far. Yesterday he beat 50.00sec for the first time, running 49.80sec, a world championship qualifying mark. With Jonathan Ridgeon injured and Kris Akabusi reluctant to compete in Rome, Cadogan has arrived just in time.

The one setback to Britain's hopes was the performance of Steve Smith, who managed only 2.05 metres in the high jump.

Smith, the world junior champion, put it down to just a bad day, reminding those assembled that the week before he had cleared 2.33 off five strides.

Dalton Grant, the European Cup champion, won

with 2.25 metres. Would it be a blow to Smith if he was not picked for the European Cup? "It would be a blow for the British team," he said. "I can do a better job than anyone in the European Cup."

Hill, who won the Golden Gala javelin in Rome last week, is now throwing consistently over 80 metres. He was the outstanding field event performance, while the most impressive winners on the track were Christie and John Regis.

Christie recovered his form after his ignominious seventh place in the Golden Gala 200 metres, winning the 100 metres emphatically on Saturday. While the quality of the opposition was modest, Christie's time, 10.26sec, will message his intentions to the Americans, as they go into

their world championship trials this week. Regis, who shares the 200 metres British record with Christie, yesterday moved into the fastest half dozen in the world this year, winning in 20.21sec, despite a slight stumble at the start.

He was helped by a marginally illegal tailwind, but his victory by half a second told the story of an athlete in form. It also eased the nine-year-old championship record held by Todd Bennett.

According to Regis, Christie has changed his mind over representing Britain in the four-by-100 metres relay at the European Cup. Christie had told Frank Dick, Britain's director of coaching, that he did not want to be involved.

Katharine Merry, still a junior, was undaunted by the company in the 200 metres. It included Sally Gunnell but Merry took the title in a time, 23.20sec, which raised her to seventeenth all-time in the British senior rankings. Gunnell's run, too, was a

personal best, her 23.30sec confirming that she is an outstanding shape for the important challenges to come.

Though Merry's performance gave her a world championship qualifying time, her thoughts are trained more towards San Sebastian, where the European junior championships will be held. She has designs on a golden sprint double there. "This is my last year as a junior and I want to make the most of it," she said.

Merry, 18, has raced Gunnell twice and won both times, but both at her preferred distance of 200 metres. She had a good lead over the Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion coming off the bend, but then Gunnell began to bear down on her, closing the gap with every stride. "The line could not come quick enough for me," Merry admitted.

Banned runner refused court defence

By David Powell

ROBERT Hamilton-Jones, the athlete serving a four-year ban for failing to provide a specimen for a drugs test, has been refused legal aid and says he will be unable to afford to defend himself against the British Athletics Federation in a High Court action in London on Wednesday.

The federation has issued a writ applying for an injunction to prevent him from competing while under suspension. Hamilton-Jones, a county standard middle-distance runner, has raced twice illegally since the ban.

He is studying near Milan and, with legal costs estimated to run close to £15,000, he says he is in no position to oppose the federation in court and is not planning to return for the hearing.

Hamilton-Jones said he could not stop to give a sample after a GRE Cup 5,000 metres race in July 1991 because he had a part-time job commitment to help finance his studies. After making his first illegal appearance, in a road race in Cardiff on Boxing day last year, he said: "I put the challenge down to the athletics authorities of this country — try and stop me. I am not prepared to co-operate any more with this dreadful system."

His ban is due to expire in 1995. If the injunction is granted, Hamilton-Jones would face imprisonment if he continued to compete while suspended. If it is dismissed, and if Hamilton-Jones succeeds with a counter claim that the ban is invalid, the federation may be forced to review its anti-drugs regulations.



Hamilton-Jones: ban

Results, page 24

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Swing, high and low

THEATRE page 30

Jane Lapotaire, highly affecting as Mrs Aving in *Ghosts*, for the Royal Shakespeare Company

ARTS

BOOKS page 31

Roddy Doyle, Dublin creator of an instantly recognisable literary landscape and style

Kind heart gets a coronet

Richard Attenborough received a life peerage in last week's honours list

David Robinson beards a busy baron

SEVENTY in August, Richard Attenborough shows no sign of slackening pace. Hard on the heels of *Chaplin* and his critical mauling in this country, he has practically finished shooting his next film, *Shadowlands*, from William Nicholson's play.

He has meanwhile returned to acting after 13 years, to star in Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park*, which is tipped as the film to 'outgross *E.T.*' Plans for his next ten years' work include his long-cherished project for a film biography of Thomas Paine, as well as another about the pioneer popular ecologist, Grey Owl.

There was no question of a day off yesterday to celebrate his peerage. Sunday was the only time Camden town hall was available for location shooting. Between takes he was replying in his neat, distinctive manuscript to letters of congratulation. He never neglects a courtesy.

The only other British film personality ever to receive a life peerage, Lord Rank, was honoured for somewhat different reasons. The millionaire flour magnate had established a near-monopoly in British cinema, battled fiercely without effect for an American market for British films, and handily supported the Conservative Party (he refused to accept his peerage while Atlee was in office, and waited a decade until the Macmillan administration). Lord Attenborough will be comfortable on the Labour side of the Lords.

His new honour might equally be reward for the film-maker and actor, for a lifetime of enthusiastic public service, not always publicised, or simply for being the most visible member of British film history. For more than 50 years Attenborough has personified and championed British film through trials and triumphs.

His career began precociously. Attenborough was 18, still a student at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art when Noël Coward and David Lean cast him in a small part in *In Which We Serve*. Seeing the film on television last week it was clear why this supporting performance captured notices. A solo scene in which the young stoker tries to fight back the onset of sheer terror is not only a technical tour de force but a kind of truth that was rarely permitted in the chirpy British films of the war.

In 1943 he became a West End star overnight as the petty gangster Pinkie in the stage adaptation of Graham Greene's *Brighton Rock*. The play closed when he was called

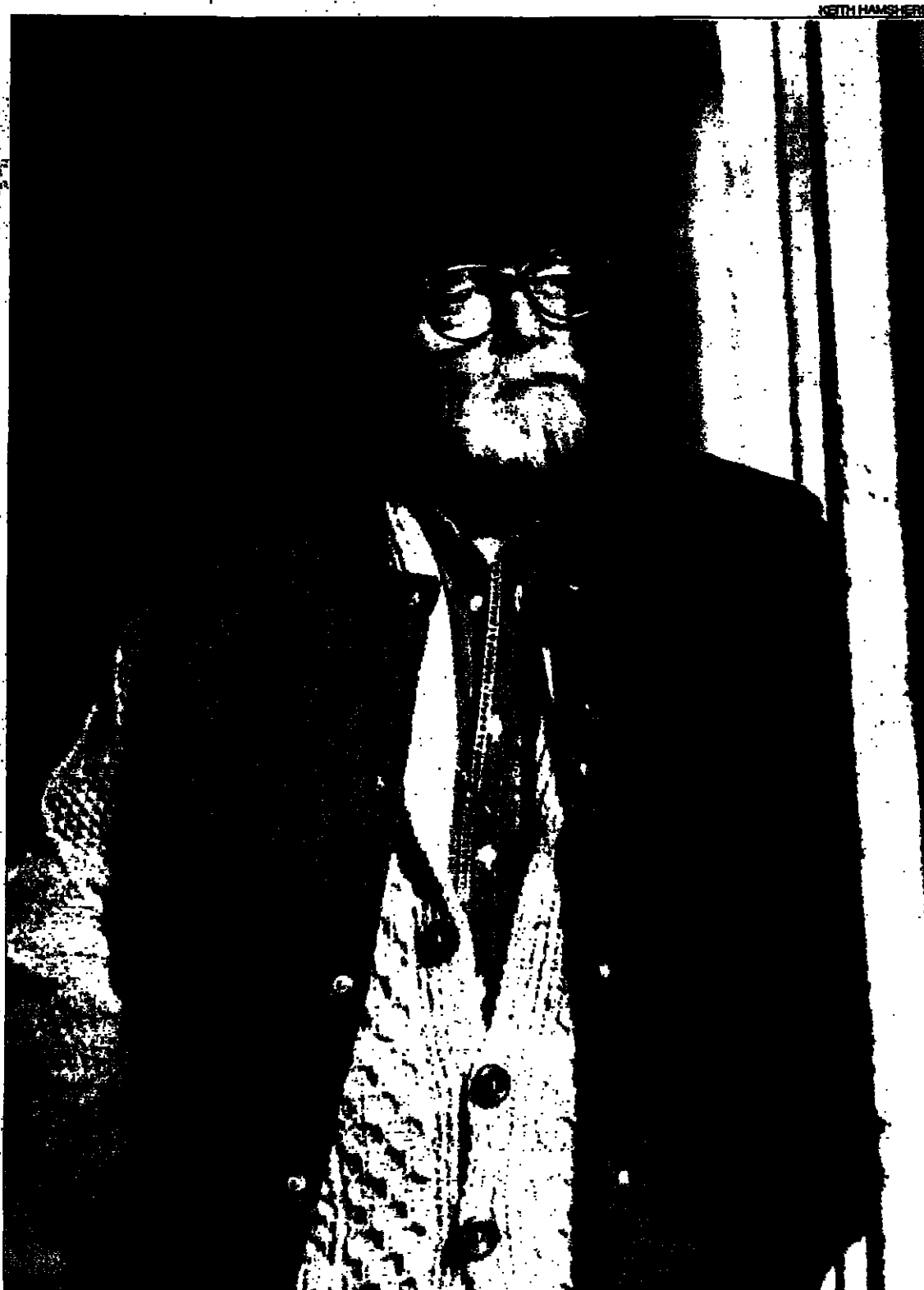
into the RAF, but the film version relaunched his postwar career, even though the *Times* critic felt he should not be allowed to get into the 'villainous and degenerate past'. The baby face did indeed bring problems of type-casting to disturbed teenager roles, yet through the Fifties and Sixties Attenborough landed some of the best parts going in British films. The role he found most personally disturbing was that of the murderer John Reginald Christie in *10 Rillington Place*. He was able to reconcile himself to it on account of the film's function as a plea against capital punishment.

When he moved into production in 1960 he saw his role as producing other people's films. "I had no thought of being a director — except that I wanted to make this one film." The passion to make a film on the life of Gandhi first seized him in 1962, but it was twenty years before he could find the necessary funding. In the intervening years he was established, reluctantly, but triumphantly as a director with *Oh! What a Lovely War*, and went on to make *Young Winston*, *A Bridge Too Far* and *Magic Gandhi* was to earn more Oscars and a bigger international market than any British film before.

Attenborough cheerfully and consistently deprecates his achievement as a director. "My style is pre-conceived... a bit mundane. I sometimes wish I'd been a bit more unconventional. The truth is that his distinctive gifts — skill in casting and directing actors and a profound instinct for *mise-en-scène* — are inclined to be obscured in the machinery of big-budget production. His work on the smaller, fiercer canvas of *Shadowlands* will be one of the most interesting tests of his career. The script deals with C.S. Lewis's shy, autumnal love affair with an American divorcee.

On set, Attenborough's greatest asset is his ability to win the devotion even of the traditionally sardonic cynical British film crew. His eyes never miss anything; he knows the character and quirks and name of every grip and assistant carpenter. Even the most rugged turn of a hair at being called 'Poppy' or 'Darling', and will work longer hours for him than any other director.

The worst hazards of working with Attenborough are trying to keep up with his colossal, 28-hours-a-day energy, his relentless logic and the merciless memory for detail. "But you must remember, darling, I told you," is a typical Attenborough protest



Seventy in the shade? Lord Attenborough on the set of *Shadowlands*, which is his latest film as director

to his more fallible collaborators. If he has a secret it is the discipline with which he organises his attention. He can shift his focus with startling rapidity and precision. The time between takes of even the most demanding scene may be allocated to a press interview or some thorny problem of Rada or the Muscular Dystrophy Group or any other of the 30 or so organisations of which he is chairman, president or patron.

The readiness to accept honorary public appointments is in itself phenomenal. His official ubiquity,

along with constant concern for his public image, would seem like vanity in anyone else. With Attenborough it is rather a recognition that he is better equipped for such jobs than most other people.

He will certainly perceive his peerage not just as an honour but as a valuable addition to this personal armoury. He will predictably seize the opportunity to become a still more effective spokesman for the causes which fire his famously volatile emotions, whether they be British cinema or injustice and suffering in

the Third World, or anywhere else.

Back in the Forties, not yet 30, he was already chairing endless committees, whether pleading the cause of British films or furthering more conventional good causes. The flamboyant Dickie style — the uninhibited kissing and 'darlings' — was already a byword. When he went back to his native Leicester as a young star in 1942 the local paper reported that he had 'still the same friendly, unassuming manner which made him so popular in the Scouts'. Today, they would probably still say the same.

ROCK CONCERT

Forty shades of London green

THIS was always an ambitious notion: 37 acts, three stages and 30,000 over-rehearsed punters in Finsbury Park. But the Fleadh, now an established London Irish festival, pulled it off after a struggle. What it lacked in charm and hygiene it compensated for in slick organisation and the occasionally inspired musical moment.

Stiff Little Fingers, in their time Belfast's most furious punk band, made a smart main stage choice. The safety-pin nostalgia of such rants as 'Suspect Device' and 'Alternative Ulster' was surprisingly potent. In the Mean Fiddler marquee, Kirsty McColl, Eddie Reader and Mary Coughlan gave low-key performances, the audience's hushed reverence and the acoustic instrumentation adding to a folk-club ambience. The highlight on stage two came courtesy of The Rockingbirds, with spry country rock of the type Gram Parsons might have invented had he come from London.

The Pogues, arguably the very reason The Fleadh exists, were a disappointment. Without their dishevelled singer, Shane MacGowan, they have become a charisma-free zone. Spider Stacy and Terry Woods vainly attempted to tempt them to summon MacGowan's ghost. (MacGowan himself was seen backstage, enthusing about his new group, cheekily named The Pogues.) When an appearance by Joe Strummer failed to

stimulate the crowd's affections, speculation became rife as to the band's continuing reason for being. Similarly, Scottish favourites Runrig did little to excite. A musical relative of porridge, they promised renewed passion and spiritual nutrition, but served up something bland and lumpy.

It was left to Van Morrison to raise the temperature, which would have been a simple task had he played a selection of tunes from *Irish Heartbeat*, his superb and obviously appropriate 1988 collaboration with The Chieftans. Instead, he stuck to the rhythm and blues portfolio he has already toured exhaustively this year.

And so the responsibility for firing up the invariably squiffy and increasingly damp audience fell squarely upon the rounded shoulders of Bob Dylan, the Fleadh's least conspicuous Celt. Opening ambitiously with a fragile rendition of 'Hard Times', Dylan slowly won the hordes over. By the time Morrison re-appeared to duet on a touchingly ramshackle 'Wild Irish Rover', they were eating — and doubtless drinking — out of his hand.

With a magnificent encore, 'It Ain't Me Babe', Dylan saved the day and achieved the unimaginable feat of transforming the vast foggy field into somewhere warm, intimate and just a little magical.

ADRIAN DEEVOY

TELEVISION REVIEW

Soft-focus view of a hard man

Arnold Schoenberg's off-expressed conviction was that his advances as a composer were evolutionary rather than revolutionary, firmly rooted in the past, and forced on him by necessity.

Larry Weinstein's drama documentary, *My War Years* (BBC 2, Saturday), allowed Schoenberg to make this point in person. 'My works, based on tradition, are destined to become tradition' was one formulation, taken, like the rest, from documents of the time and said by an actor in period dress. In the case of Schoenberg, this was Wolfgang Ranz, a deadringer for the founder of the Second Viennese School.

Indeed, in long-shot, with face in heavy Expressionist shadow, it was easy to think that the researchers had dug up home video footage of Schoenberg, his family and inner circle. His disciples were all there too — Webern, Berg, Wellesz, Erwin Stein — along with mentor and brother-in-law, Alexander von Zemlinsky and Alma Mahler.

There is a familiar egocentric, and nationalistic, ring to Schoenberg's conviction that, with the evolution of his 12-note method of composition, he was establishing the 'supremacy of German music for a hundred years'. But, as Weinstein's film reminded us, the advent of the first world war kindled nationalist sentiments in the unlikelyst of

bosoms. Webern considered it imperative to defend the Reich, while Schoenberg himself was keen to do his bit — until he saw the carnage. To begin with, the ribbing he received from fellow comrades as a composer made a pleasant change from the assaults of critics and audiences.

My War Years was strong on the slings and arrows of outraged audiences. It had less to say about Schoenberg's own potential for caustic comment and ingratitude: his wounding barbs devastated insecure younger composers such as Berg, while the support he received from Zemlinsky was barely reciprocated.

But Weinstein's strategy was the familiar one, adroitly handled: flatter your audience by explaining when necessary, and attract sympathy for your subject by portraying his enemies as philistines. Adrian Martialis's surreal film to Schoenberg's Transfigured Night (BBC 2, Sunday) was set in and around the waiting-room of Basel railway station, with many a symbol lying in wait. The work can be performed either by a string sextet or with full orchestra. Martialis seemed reluctant to decide: an augmented Brodsky Quartet played under a stray chandelier, while members of the Basle Symphony Orchestra popped up periodically.

BARRY MILLINGTON

DANCE REVIEW

Swing, high and low

THE cinema may just be rediscovering the pleasures of live dancing, as reported in *The Times* on Thursday, but the Jiving Lindy Hoppers have been putting it on stage for nearly nine years now and that very night gave their new show as part of the Barclays New Stages season at the Royal Court.

Echoes of Harlem saves until the end the spectacular swinging of partners upside down, high overhead or in somersaults, given with competitive and cumulative excitement by the four couples in 'Frenzy' — naturally with the women doing their share of the tough-guy lifting and throwing. But this is only the climax of a kaleidoscope of swingy dancing that offers eight or nine contrasted sequences in each half of the programme.

The only decor is the five-piece band ranged across the back of the stage — an upright piano painted bright red, bass, percussion, trumpet and saxophone. There are, however, so many costume changes but you wonder how the cast ever find time to draw breath between items.

These are versatile performers. Warren Heyes's speciality number is a sand dance, shuffling out the audible rhythms; Caroline Hinds, besides dancing, belts out an impressive vocal in 'Tail-



Skill and versatility: Warren Heyes and Theresa Jackson

feather'. From the lindy to the mambo they go, from Joseph Mafie's softshoe solo to the 'Black Bottom'.

They even take in the occasional more 'arty' number, such as the duet 'Yesterday's Dreams' for Theresa Jackson and Michelle Kerry. All of them can turn their hands — or feet, I should say — to tap, comedy, a chorus line or a lively bit of showing off.

The presentation is theatrical, the material is essentially

what dancers in Harlem did to enjoy themselves from the Twenties, Thirties and onwards, and to better themselves and their conditions.

What gives the show its special zest, I think, is not only the skill of the performers, but their seeming dedication to exploring, saving and performing these dances from a past still vivid in many people's imaginations.

JOHN PERCIVAL

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL: Richard Morrison

Pacifist goes over the top

AFTER the 1970 premiere of his television opera *Owen Wingrave*, Britten became more cardboard caricatures. When they sing together — to shriek 'how dare you?' as Owen, for instance — the result is jejune. Least believable of all (despite Mary King's valiant attempt at humanisation) is the non-stop Kate, Owen's girlfriend. Instead of saying something comforting to him — 'don't let the buggers get you down', perhaps — she gives him the ridiculous challenge of sleeping in a haunted room to prove his manhood. He does, and dies in the night. We are supposed to read something deeply symbolic into this holism.

Britten must have felt that the moment was right to offer his own thinly-disguised 'apologia'. He would, in effect, justify his refusal to fight in 1942 through an operatic treatment of Henry James's story about a lad who refuses to follow his military ancestors to battlefield glory and an early grave. Yet the result is irredeemably unconvincing even now, when the morality of military action is again being debated.

As was demonstrated in the rare concert performance (sponsored by the Chapman Trust) that opened the Aldeburgh Festival on Friday, Britten's musical response is not the problem. The score compels attention, with misshapen bugle-calls, bass-lines galloping as crazily as the Light Brigade, sour but richly allusive textures. All this detail was brilliantly delivered by the London Sinfonietta under Oliver Knussen's direction.

No, the work's big flaw is that Britten took the easy

option and decided, as in the Sondheim song, to 'send in the downs'. Owen's gung-ho family become mere cardboard caricatures. When they sing together — to shriek 'how dare you?' as Owen, for instance — the result is jejune. Least believable of all (despite Mary King's valiant attempt at humanisation) is the non-stop Kate, Owen's girlfriend. Instead of saying something comforting to him — 'don't let the buggers get you down', perhaps — she gives him the ridiculous challenge of sleeping in a haunted room to prove his manhood. He does, and dies in the night. We are supposed to read something deeply symbolic into this holism.

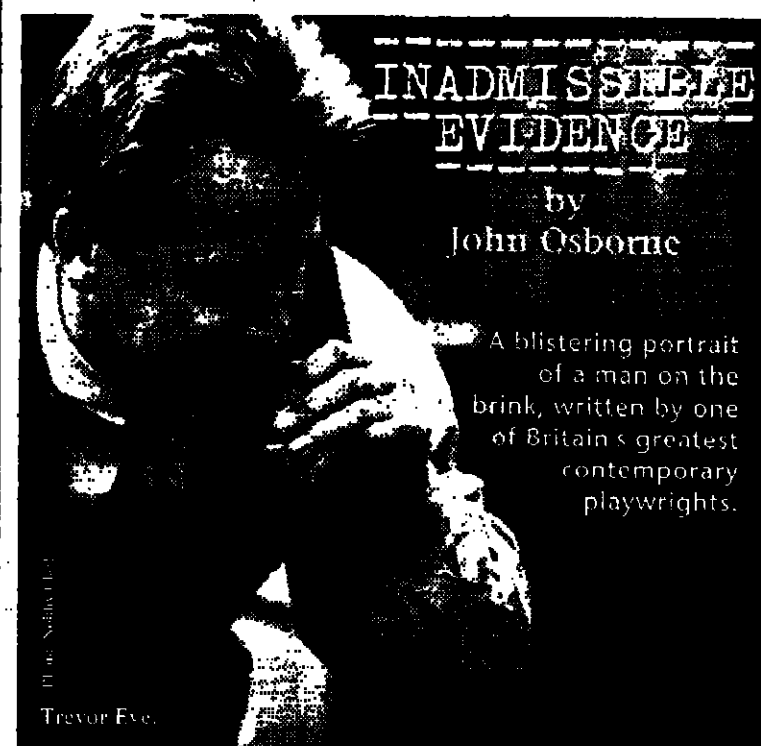
Owen himself comes across as a self-righteous prig: a kind of singing *Guardian* leader-writer. This was presumably not Britten's intention. And David Wilson-Johnson's performance, though powerful, presented too prickly and middle-aged a figure.

But there was fine singing from John Shirley-Quirk as Spencer Coyle, from Jane Manning as the garrulous Miss Wingrave, and from Adrian Thompson, delivering the offstage ballad with robust support from the Weehastons Boys' Choir.

On Saturday, the admirable American pianist Peter Serkin opened his recital with a marvellous flourish. He preceded Bach's Goldberg Variations with six small pieces, all commissioned by himself.

So, in rapid succession, we heard Peter Liebermann's beguiling *Breeze of Delight*, all

delicate trills and major/minor ambiguities; Oliver Knussen's punchy Variations, using the keyboard's extremes to good effect; Hans Werner Henze's dreary *Piece for Peter*; two exquisite *Rain Tree Sketches* by Toru Takemitsu (the second a touching elegy for Messiaen); and Alexander Goehr's *In Real Time I*, music of great wit and warmth, wittily prepared by a programme-note entirely about complex mathematical proportions. Serkin played them all superbly.



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Trapped in a domestic morgue

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Bold ascent to emotional peak: Jane Lapotnik. Simon Russell Beale

Ghosts Other Place, Stratford

HANGING at the back of the bar at the Other Place is a quotation from Ibsen: "Anyone who wishes to understand me fully must know Norway." Beside it is evidence of his latest director's attempts to follow his advice. There are photos of streets, rooms, mountains and fjords, each of them contrived to look black-and-grey even though Katie Mitchell snapped them in colour, and as it turns out, each of them making its contribution to the production of *Ghosts* she has staged next door. Panels, walls, door, chairs, tables, even what looks like a portrait of Chamberlain Alving suffering from DTs: who would have thought there were so many drab hues at the gloomier end of the rainbow?

This living-room is very evidently a place where, as Ibsen also said, people "brood and doubt and despair and long for the sun". Yet Mitchell is not just manufacturing a drear, oppressing atmosphere. She is also giving us space, austere stage where a troubling story can be simply told or, to put it another way, creating a sort of domestic morgue where a difficult post-mortem can be cleanly conducted. Seldom can the play have been so unpretentiously yet forcefully revived.

The days are long gone when critics called *Ghosts* "an open drain, a loathsome sore unbandaged, a lazaretto with its windows open", and yet so shilly-shally about the plot that their readers could not have had a clue what kind of drain, sore or leper-house it actually was. Yet the play would not be worth reviving if it did not retain the

power to shock or at least disconcert. It is, after all, an attack on conformism, puritanism, and doggedly doing one's duty, and still a pretty scathing one. Why did Alving become the degenerate who bequeathed his boy spirit, got the mail pregnant, and made his wife's life a secret misery? Partly because of the doctrine of lovelessness propagated by the likes of the local minister, Pastor Manders. Had she rejected his high-minded influence from the start, Miss Alving might not have finished up preparing a killer-dose of morphine for Oswald, her crazed son.

Is there a more terrible ending in 19th-century drama? With Simon Russell Beale striking and then numbly muttering his mad plan to "ignite the sun", and Jane Lapotnik so shattered she looked as if she might not survive the curtain call, it was difficult to think of one on opening night. Moreover, each performer had ascended that emotional peak boldly and skillfully — she displaying the strength, bitterness, self-disgust and sheer exhaustion that were all legacies of marriage to Alving; his face crumpling as his nerves snapped and he contemplated the waste of all his hopes. Gradually the light turned a desolate yellow-grey, and so, it seemed, did they.

John Norringham brings a sly sympathy to the comman Engstrand,

whose function is to demonstrate society's vulnerability to those who make nice, sanctimonious noises. You feel he half-believes the sycophantic lies he feeds a Manders who, as played by John Carlisle, avoids the usual stereotypes without quite becoming a plausible alternative. He is not a flinty Nordic Reith, nor a silly Scandinavian Tartuffe, nor a credulous, insecure boy-man, but a debonair, imposing figure who would be more

comfortable running a corporation than a church. The character's moral panic at the end, when Engstrand has him in his power, is almost completely missing.

There, perhaps, the production needs attention. Otherwise, this is one of the Royal Shakespeare Company's minor triumphs: direct, unpretentious, memorable.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Nice piece of timber, shame about the story

THIS three-act, two-interval family saga is a trifling disappointment and a punishing experience to undergo on a steamy evening in a theatre built beneath a railway viaduct. To be fair to the Green Room, Tyrone Huggins's play would be insignificantly improved if performed in the finest theatre in the land, though a forest glade in St Kitts — where the first act is set, within sight of the Caribbean — would offer its compensations.

During this act, set in 1935, the sugar workers set fire to an old plantation house, and this fate may be awaiting the Burton estate where a set of 18th-century ebony chairs has been brought outside from the dining room. Mrs Burton is going to have a baby, and a black chap called Schooner already

has a young daughter, but that's about all the action we get.

A quarter of a century later we are in Birmingham where the daughter, grown up and married to Jake, is entertaining her first white guests. The white man lost his voice fighting in the Desert Rats, drinks potato run and suffers a seizure while sitting in the carver chair, a piece of furniture retrieved from the fire and brought across the Atlantic. That's it for Act I.

Thirty-something years on and Jake has just died. The family talk about him in generalities and the daughter asks to be given the chair. Sure enough, when she sits on it she too has

a seizure, the spirit of the ebony tree speaking through her, as indeed it has done in every act every time.

One lowers his or her bum onto the seat. Whether the tree keeps its own counsel in the intervening years is not disclosed. But this may be the case, because onlookers are quite bemused when the overhead light comes on, thinking notes are heard from the keyboards and Jean, Marnia, Schooner, Jake, Margie or Denny go rigid, and chant tales of the axeman moving in the necrotic light. Quite a literary turn of phrase, this hardwood has.

The small talk is microscopic and only the best cast in the world could

make something of banalities on tabling. The first act is played in front of a painted backdrop, the second is given a box set, and the third act in a mix of dry ice with the cast moving in unison. But these changes in production style are unaccompanied by changes in the writing which is low-pulse naturalism injected with high-falootin postures.

The play's core appears to be bias ebony's complaint that white sugar has destroyed him, but though David Car and Doreene Blackstock make something of their gripping in the middle act, Bridget Larmour's direction for Act 3 Theatre makes nothing of a play that was poorly imagined from the start.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Invite your boyfriend round for supper, son

The Sum of Us
Warehouse, Croydon

make their children cringe with embarrassment: he gets out gay magazines just in case the couple are shy, and happily toasts the visitor with "up your bum".

The first half of Ted Craig's production (the British premiere) is warm, affectionate and funny. Fathers apparently worry as much over their unattached 24-year-old gay sons as mothers do over their wallflower daughters; and can be just as off-putting to suitors. "It's too much like being at home," complains Greg, beating a dumfounded retreat after a smug session on

the sofa has been interrupted by the overwhelming parental tolerance.

There are other threads in the plot. Harry's own mother who loved another woman for 40 years, his guilt at their final enforced separation, and his refusal to repeat past mistakes when compelled to choose between accepting Jeff's homosexuality and the shocked disgust of the woman he wants to marry.

This scene is the weakest, perhaps because Joyce, the divorcee encountered through a dating agency, is less a

real character than a mouthpiece for anti-gay clichés. The lapse is noticeable since the play elsewhere touches certain nerves with such accuracy, capturing the chafing abrasiveness of intimacy, the exasperated pair of love. It just avoids sentimentality, leaving Harry immobile and speechless (except to us) after a stroke — he can confide to the audience how he and the devoted Jeff might end up hating each other — and Jeff himself stary-eyed at a chance meeting with Greg again.

The play revolves around Jeff, beautifully acted by Ian Williams. The former Adam Willis in television's *Neighbours* shows his firm theatrical grounding, bringing a cheerful, bawling, and above all, normal bounciness to Jeff, quiveringly eager in love, resplendent in heartbreak, devoted in filial duty: a smashing performance.

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What defines contemporary Irish fiction? Dermot Bolger, in his introduction to *The Picador Book of Contemporary Irish Fiction*, admits the difficulty of such a definition and wisely does not claim to have presented us with anything that could be so easily categorised. On the surface, what these works have in common is both their actual and fictional timeframes: all were written after 1968, and all are set in chronological order from a point just after the second world war through to an imagined future.

This is a motley collection, divided fairly evenly between short stories and extracts from novels, and making no political distinction between the Republic and Northern Ireland. Some of the tales are set in Ireland but many are not: they range from the traditional and typical — Tom McIntyre's

Where Anglo-Saxons fear to tread

Erica Wagner

THE PICADOR BOOK OF CONTEMPORARY IRISH FICTION
Edited by Dermot Bolger
Picador, £14.99

TOUCH AND GO
By Sam McAugusty
Blackstaff, £6.95, pbk

TAKING SCARLET AS A REAL COLOUR
By Evelyn Conlon
Blackstaff, £6.95, pbk

lucid, dreamlike extract from "The Engine of Owl-Light". Bolger has chosen, it is true, to cast the long and demanding shadow of Samuel

Beckett over all, but "For To End Yet Again" only displays how flexible and original the Irish tradition is.

But the Picador anthology hasn't room by any means for all Irish writers of note. Sam McAugusty's novel *Touch and Go* is Hugh Reilly's tale: that of a Belfast man returned to his city at the end of the second world war to find his mother dying and that his success as a bomber pilot has done nothing to allay the violent jealousy of his brother.

McAugusty, who himself flew with the RAF, writes unflinchingly of the tensions in a world where nothing has changed and nothing has stayed the same, and has an eye for descriptive detail that is

reminiscent of Louis MacNeice. Reilly survives the war, however, only to commit murder and be faced with the spectre of the public hangman; and it is in the final sections of the novel, during Reilly's time in prison and during his trial, that McAugusty becomes so much more than just a compelling storyteller. His prose is stripped clean of artifice and has the seeming simplicity of a vivid, moral voice calling out in a wilderness of uncertainty. It is a subtle, powerful sound.

Taking Scarlet as Real Colour is the second collection of stories from the Dublin-based writer Evelyn Conlon. The book takes its title from the last story in the book: whose giant one-paragraph ram-

bled is one of its few weaknesses. Mostly these stories are very good indeed, and Conlon has the rare ability to give her words an almost mythic overtone without ever sounding forced: "Eddie McGivern got thick gradually. He had to be careful, you see, because his neighbours, as well as his children, believed that his wife was dead, so he was forced to buy food for only one and then share it with Gertrude."

These stories are strongest, in fact, when they are allowed to flow on the rhythm of their prose and only stagnate when they become too grounded in reality — at which point they occasionally risk predictability: the ending of "Birth Certificate" is far too long in coming. But Conlon's is an original voice: an articulation of a strong feminine sensibility that takes its place in the new tradition of Irish writing.

A province sent to purgatory

THE IRISH TROUBLES
A Generation of Violence
1967-1992

By J. Bowyer Bell
Gill and Macmillan, £24.99

On October 5, 1968, the RUC bated civil rights marchers in Derry under the lens of a TV cameraman, and nothing would ever be the same again. J. Bowyer Bell puts it in an arresting way: "The Irish were about to lose monopoly possession of Ireland." The buzzards had started flocking in with cameras and tape recorders. An American historian with an Irish wife, Bowyer Bell is aware that he fits into this category; but he has long been a specialist in this area. He even appears anonymously in the story, as a "Yank historian" attending a banned Republican Club meeting in March 1967.

Behind a fair amount of self-glorification about his own involvement at — so to speak — the front, he provides much that is original and useful. He sheds new illumination on the murky world of international arms-dealing (though perhaps less on American fund-raising than one might expect) and provides an accurate account of the 1981 hunger-strikes behind the scenes. He is good on the Republic's incomprehension of the northern imbroglio, and his historical introduction establishes a vital point, often ignored: the significance of the Republic's evolution by 1968. Neither Provisionals nor Unionists, no less than Irish-Americans, realised that it had changed beyond recognition from the never-never land that figured in their separate mythologies. Thus the equation behind their self-referencing geometry was skewed from the outset.

Not surprisingly, Bowyer Bell is best when explicating that Northern Republican view, whether in terms of the IRA split of the early 1970s, the 1972 Whitelaw talks in London, or the British Army's undercover operations. Other perspectives are less clearly seen. The Catholic middle class in Northern Ireland does not get much space, but their importance needs decoding. And while he correctly emphasises the anti-IRA line of the Catholic hierarchy, the sympathies of individual priests are rather played down. "The decent Dublin view" is repeatedly and rather dismissively alluded to, but not much analysed. Sometimes one side is apparently given the benefit of the doubt. The London car bombers of March 1973 are quoted as intending "an operation... that would cause no death or injury," and Bowyer Bell adds that "the result was much, if not exactly, as intended." The one person killed and 180 injured

Roy Foster concludes from a history of the Troubles that Ulster foreshadowed the global religious and ethnic upheavals of 1993



Ulster childhood, from *Para: Inside the Parachute Regiment* by Claire Gillman, Bloomsbury, £16.99

might demur. And the hunger-stricken Bobby Sands is presented in a traditionally hagiographical way. "Slender, naked and dirty, with a long mane of blonde hair, sharp eyes, and a quiet tongue, he was no real poet, not a grand talent or a great guerrilla, but rather one of the best of his ordinary generation who chance had put at the centre of the stage."

While perceptive and well-informed at local level, the American origins of the study are apparent in more than the uncertain use of English nomenclature. British actors in the drama are often given as stereotypes derived from Colonel Blimp or Bertie Wooster — perhaps inevitable when figures like Reginald Maudling totter uncomprehendingly

across the screen, but doing less than justice to the ideas behind Prior's and Gower's floating of "rolling devolution" in the early 1980s, or the commitment of several behind-the-scenes "Establishment" figures to what became the Anglo-Irish Accord of 1985. There are also a number of fashionably sweeping references to blanket anti-Irish prejudice in Britain on ethnic grounds, which oversimplify a complex reaction and underestimate the integration of many Irish communities in Britain.

A more pervasive reservation concerns the presentation of material. In this huge book, there are inevitably typographical mistakes; but it is irritating that so many of them occur in proper names. At the same time,

unnecessary details are piled up, down to the colour and makes of cars which feature in the endless shoot-outs and bomb-plantings. The writing is occasionally moving, and occasional metaphors resoundingly hit the mark; but too often it tends to hypertrophy into journalistic comprehensibility suffers accordingly. (One example: "He was, more exactly, Baron John Passmore, Lord Chief Justice and former member of the British army, a piece of the main not less elegant than Reginald Maudling, and so received by Irish opinion.") Towards the end there are some confusions in chronology and a lurch into punch-drunk overdrive, while the final rhetorical questions suggest exhaustion. "Art may elaborate and

television may be part of the play but why has there been violence, conflict, a perpetual crisis at all? Who is at fault, what does it mean, and most of all, not what could have been done but what should have been done?"

Does this vast and breathless volume tell us? Hardly, since one of Bowyer Bell's recurrent themes is — quite correctly — that there is no "answer". Certain themes are more helpful than others. Bowyer Bell uses the phrase "decent man" repetitively, usually implying ineffectuality. But one is struck by those impressive few who actually changed their minds about the bedrock verities over this period such as Gerry Fitt, Cathal Goulding, Glen Barr, and at the fact that this very process relegated them inevitably to the periphery, while the possessors of the truth, Orange and Green, ran sanctimoniously on. But perhaps it is from the sidelines, in unsung and glamorous activities, that changes in attitudes begin.

When Bowyer Bell turns aside to themes and trends, one can stop and think. There is a ghostly sketch of the kind of alternative society which had evolved in Belfast by the mid-1980s, all too brief. And towards the end he confronts a basic issue: aside altogether from the sense of history, inherited myopia on both sides, and obtuseness of government policy and army actions, the paramilitaries and fellow-travellers have, since the late 1960s, evolved powerful practical and objective reasons for keeping things as they are. Given the deprivations of background and dependency culture which underlie their stance (where are the middle-class Provos and UFF?) and the networks of power and influence that have evolved, they occupy a position memorably described by Edmund Burke: that of men who dread returning to the calmer times which will consign them to their rightful insignificance.

Moreover, viewing this 25-year span, one realises that much of what in the late 1960s seemed Ulster's unique time-war in fact prophesied the future. "The Troubles" anticipated the interface between fundamentalist religion, nationalism, and terrorism; the irrelevance of predicament theories derived from 19th-century Marxism; and even an early, implicit form of ethnic cleansing (re-segregation and demography are not much dealt with in this book, but they tell a depressing story). The heroic civil rights activists who began the unrest little knew that 1960s campus optimism and melting pot theories may have contained the seeds of their own destruction. In this and other ways, Bowyer Bell's unwieldy annals hold lessons which apply to a wider world than Ulster.

Roy Foster is Carroll Professor of Irish History at Oxford.

Dubliners, vintage 1968

David Park

PADDY CLARKE
HA HA HA
By Roddy Doyle
Secker & Warburg, £12.99

you had forgotten. He gets it exactly right, with an unerring fidelity to the way things were. Whether it's a family picnic in the car — warm Fanta, cups wrapped in toilet roll, biscuits in tin foil — or the Bush radio with its dirt in the lines of the plastic front, the past is captured with unsentimental affection.

If the first half of the book feels episodic and occasionally lacks momentum, the tightening focus on family tensions brings it to a strong conclusion. The superb portrayal of Paddy's relationship with his younger brother and the slow painful grasp of their parents'



Doyle: unerring fidelity

splitting relationship are reminders that no one writes as effectively about working class families as Doyle.

In life the timing of decisions is all. One of the skills Paddy prides himself on is knowing the exact moment when to knock the dead back from his knee. Perhaps Doyle himself must now consider whether the time has come to turn his considerable talents to a broader setting.

David Parks *The Healing* (Phoenix paperback) recently won the *Author's Club* First Novel Award.

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

To book any of this week's offers, telephone the Theatre Club on 071-413 1412, open 24 hours a day, or call the theatre during box office hours. You can use the Club's booking line for other West End productions. A service charge may be levied for some shows.

● LONDON

Last Theatre Royal Haymarket Tuesday, July 13.
The Heather Brothers' new musical is based on William Wycherley's lusty comedy *The Country Wife*. Members are invited to meet the cast after the performance on July 13. Tickets are £18 including a glass of wine.
Sharp Focus King's Head, Islington June 13, 14, 20, 21.
This new musical written by Mary Stewart-David and John Jansson is set in a photographer's studio, where a portrait session reveals more than is expected. Members are offered two tickets for the price of one at the showcase performances today and June 21 at 4pm, and June 20 at 8pm. Tel: 071-226 1916.

● WATFORD

Salsa Celestina Palace Theatre June 29, 30, July 1.
Members are offered two tickets for the price of one to enjoy live music from Orquesta La Clave, wild sensuous salsa dance and a bawdy tale based on the 15th-century drama by Rojas. Tel: 0923 225671.

● TOURING

The Hull Truck Theatre Company is currently touring three comedies by John Godber and we have two tickets for the price of one for selected dates.

The Office Party

Civic Theatre, Darlington June 14-17. Tel: 0325 486555. Witness what happens when the office regulars get together.

April in Paris

Everyman, Liverpool June 22-24. Tel: 051-709 4776.

Al and Bet discover themselves and Paris.

Happy Families

Ashcroft, Croydon June 21-24. Tel: 081-688 9291.

New Victoria, Woking

July 5-8. Tel: 0483 761144.

New, Cardiff

July 12-15. Tel: 0222 394844.

Follow the family trials and tribulations of John, from 11-pup failure to MA.

To join the Theatre Club

either send a cheque for £12.50, payable to The Theatre Club, with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, PO Box 490, London E1 9DW or telephone the Club booking number on 071-413 1412 using your credit card. For general inquiries please telephone 071-387 9673.

For up to date information on Club events

telephone the Theatre Club's News Information Service on 0891 555590. Calls cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p at other times.

Torture chamber

HALLELUJAH NOW
By Terence Davies
Penguin, £5.99

"OH GOD have mercy on my thoughts," Robert, tormented young narrator, beloved son of beloved, failing Mam, sees his sisters leave the Liverpool home to wed, leaving him to his secret, shameful desires while working as a clerk. Davies's fine films, *Distant Voices*, *Still Life* and *The Long Day Closes*, left this darkest side of humanity unexplored; with sex a limitless territory, with love, though love is what loneliness craves. The final part of three follows Robert even unto death. Disturbing, poetic, brave.

IN THE PSYCHIATRIST'S CHAIR

By Anthony Clare
Mandarin, £5.99

AS CLARE himself admits, the title of his now famous radio series is somewhat misleading: "what happens in the interviews is not psychiatric, the subjects are not patients and there is no treatment." The

psychiatrist R D Laing, interviewed not long before his death, courageously admits to being depressed and alcoholic. Agency aunt Claire Rayner, by contrast, attempts a cover-up of her unhappy past, but fails. All 12 encounters are fascinating, even if you've already heard them.

BLACK DOGS

By Ian McEwan
Picador, £4.99

HONEYMOONING in the Languedoc in 1946, innocent young English communist June Tremaine encounters evil incarnate on a mountain path while her entomologist husband Bernard is distracted by caterpillars. Around this chilling incident, with its echoes of Gestapo brutality, McEwan builds a sensitive, resonant portrait of three contrasting responses to the violence and disillusionment of the 20th century.

● Contributors: Sue Gee, Hazel Leslie, Alison Burns

Conflict behind the curtains

IN DANGEROUS TO KNOW, by Margaret Yorke (Hutchinson, £13.99). Hermione Brown, long-suffering spouse of the autistic Walter, is beginning to rebel. She makes a friend, takes a job, denies her husband his conjugal instances. Walter has his own pathological needs and ambitions. Slowly, grippingly, the two agendas draw closer.

Yorke's territory lies behind the net curtains of respectable suburbia, behind the polite facades of ordinary people. No crime writer compares in extracting unease, fear and evil from such placid surfaces. Absorbing.

Feisty Mancunian shamus

Kate Brannigan, the heroine of Kiek Back by Val McDermid (Gollancz, £5.99), reluctantly takes on a client in financial trouble following the disappearance of his firm's conservatories from the houses to which they were attached. At the same she pokes into a property scam in which her friend has been swindled.

The investigations turn nasty and dangerous, there's a satisfying range of villains in the legal and building trades. Manchester and its environs turn deeply sinister, and the Thai-boxing Kate toughs and wise-cracks her way to a solution. Passes the Second Novel-test triumphantly. Under-rated in Britain, Lawrence Sanders is a first-rate,

consistently entertaining bloodmink, slick master of New York dialogue and ambience. His private eye, Matt Scudder, a former alcoholic cop, only just escapes seediness and doesn't quite avoid occasional illegality, but he's an appealingly cynical character with decent instincts peeping through.

In A Walk among the Tombstones

(Orion, £13.99) he is hired by a rich Arab whose wife has been kidnapped; she returns, in many pieces. The killers have done it before, and now they snatch a young girl. Scudder seeks urgently. Not a cosy read, but worth it.

Taking a break from Inspector Ghote, H.R.F. Keating reveals, for the first time, his criminal versatility in *The Rich Detective* (Macmillan, £13.99). If you can accept that a moderately suburban, moderately dissatisfied detective-investigator can win the Spanish El Gordo lottery, the rest is a delight.

As a poor copper, Bill Sylvester has been taken off a case in which he has been trying to prove that a flamboyant antique dealer is also a murderer of several old people who have written out wills in his favour. Once a millionaire, he can leave the force and continue enquiries as a private citizen.

TIME



Barbara Vine/Ruth Rendell: subtle

Asta's Book, by Barbara Vine (Viking, £15.99) is a very Finnish work, redolent with the atmosphere of bygone families and musty secrets emerging from the past to demand the resolution of some long-forgotten trauma. Asta's book is the diary of a newly-married Danish woman who came to live in east London in 1905; through her writings over more than a half-century two old mysteries are gradually revealed: a local murder and the uncertain paternity of the diary-writer's daughter. Asta's grand-daughter assembles the clues and reconstructs the passions of yesteryear. Subtle, delicate and intricately crafted, it is over-contrived. Too many jig-

saw pieces fit too perfectly; I would have preferred a loose end or two. But the journey towards the multi-layered conclusion is enthralling.

Joe Sixsmith is black, a redundant lathe operator with a drunken cat, an imperious aunt and an almost non-existent practice as a tec for hire. He also lives in Luton, a town which his creator Reginald Hill, wisely, admits in an author's note he has never been to. In *Blood Sympathy* (Collins, £13.99) our hero gets caught up in various scrapes, including a drug-running affair, and participates in some decent action and edgy conversa-

tions. Hill cannot write badly, and it's all quite fun, but it's Sixsmith's first appearance in a novel (he has been in short stories) and he isn't quite right. Nor is Luton. A hung verdict. The title of Death and the Oxford Box by Veronica Stallwood (Macmillan, £13.99) refers to valuable antique enamel boxes, taken by Theo when he leaves his wife Rose and gets up with another. Rose's gang of mainly female jogging mates plan to nick the boxes back, but their raid is used as cover for killing one of them. Novelist Kate Ivory snoops with intelligence, wit and some nice insights.

MARCEL BERLINS

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Taking the lid off the rubbish trade

A green business screen
Investors and insurers want companies to come clean

Environmental auditing is a growth business. The growing volume of regulations from Whitehall and Brussels is pushing companies to seek a clean bill of environmental health. The new British Standard, BS7750, on environmental management systems has gained wide recognition.

David Thomson, environmental audit manager at the Institute of Environmental Assessment, says: "10 per cent of all UK capital investment now undergoes green screening. Companies are coming under increasing pressure from shareholders and potential investors to register to BS7750 as a badge of environmental respectability." The institute has registered 400 consultants as auditors.

The EC's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), a site-based accreditation scheme, will not be a legal requirement when it starts in 1995, but market-based pressures are expected to persuade companies of the need to be seen to be green. To qualify, Mr Thomson says, companies will have to implement an environmental management system and submit to audits at least every three years, and reveal EMAS findings.

Both BS7750 and EMAS will require the continuing support of the big management consultants and accountancy firms grouped in the Association of Environmental Consultancies (AEC).

Geoff Mills, the chairman of AEC, says that standards are inconsistent. "The environmental profession is new and registration bodies are still grappling with the most effective way of implementing new legislation," he says.

Pre-acquisition audits are one of the largest growth areas. As the regulations tighten, companies acquiring other businesses want assurance that there are no environmental "skeletons". Mr Thomson says: "Much land contamination originated 60 years ago. A company acquiring land formerly used for iron smelting, for example, could face enormous liability."

Banks are trying to protect their investments by demanding that companies submit to environmental audits. Mr Mills is amazed how many business people "don't realise that accounting standards still fail to reflect environmental liability." He says it is becoming almost impossible to get environmental insurance from companies still burdened with old policies on polluted land.

Where there's muck there is still brass, David Rudnick says, introducing this special report

Waste used to be a pariah topic; now it is seen as a product like any other. Growing concern for the state of the environment is propelling governments to tighten regulation of waste disposal, raising its operating costs and helping to weed out "cowboy" operators.

Waste is being contained partly as a result of recession, but mainly through a combination of rising disposal costs and the growing threat of liability for cleaning-up refuse, even when legally dumped.

In Britain, large companies, which have the resources to meet higher standards, are acting like a pressure group to promote them. The Institute of Waste Management (IWM), starts its annual conference on Thursday in Torbay, Devon, in somewhat militant mood. Six weeks ago the government announced the indefinite postponement of compulsory licensing of waste management operators. The IWM's new president, Colin Burford, countered by voicing the industry's dissatisfaction with government "back-peddalling on introducing guidelines and regulations for properly trained, responsible employees in the industry". Mr Burford sounded as green as any environmentalist when he said: "The move to do away with regulations concerning the transport of special wastes makes one wonder what sort of environment will be bequeathed to our children."

The industry's own business environment, temporarily at least, is none too healthy. Waste management companies' share price performance is described by NatWest Securities as dismal,

under-performing the stock market average by 14 per cent in the first quarter of this year. Shanks & McEwan (SME), the sector leader, is expected to turn in 10 per cent fewer profits this year. Cleanaway, in second place, recorded 1992 results down on the previous year, and its operating margins continue to shrink. The waste industry's structure is being transformed by mergers and takeovers. Robert Miller-Bakewell, of NatWest Securities, says: "Five of the ten top companies have changed ownership in the recent shake-out, and we'll see more consolidation yet. Even SME's turnover is well under £150 million."

Many privatised water companies have targeted waste management as a natural area of expansion. Severn Trent, for instance, diversified by acquiring Biffa from BET, the business services group, for £214 million. The waste division of

Wimpey, the construction group, was bought in a 50/50 joint venture between Wessex Water and Waste Management, the American disposal company. Then, in January this year, Waste Management — a subsidiary of NRC — was itself acquired for £113 million by Wessex Waste Management. The newly created group, christened UK Waste Management, is now well up among the market leaders. On a smaller scale, South West Water at the same time successfully bid £28 million for Haul Waste, the waste management subsidiary of English China Clays.

In contrast, Tarmac has been trying for more than a year to get out of waste management, but it is not finding it easy to dispose of its business. Econowaste, industry watchers think the £80 million asking price is twice as high as the business is worth,

but another problem is that Tarmac reportedly wants to offload on to the potential buyer all the environmental cost liabilities of Econowaste's landfill sites. "Wimpey were unable to discard their liability when they sold out to Wessex," one analyst recalled. There is widespread apprehension that virtually open-ended liability could frighten financial institutions off completely. "Banks don't want to lend to companies with liabilities as long as your arm," remarked one merchant banker.

The issue of contaminated land is now firmly on the corporate agenda. British Gas has made a £125 million provision for any liabilities in its 1992 preliminary results. NatWest Securities says this provides the first firm evidence that tighter environmental legislation is prompting companies to address this pollution problem. NatWest Securities says that quantification of a company's environmental liabilities is now an essential precursor to any deal.

UK waste companies' total capitalisation is about £700 million, says Richard Goldsbrough, of Hambros Bank. He says the industry is still awaiting economic recovery but "in the medium term it could enlarge to become a really viable stock market sector". At present, the industry's annual revenue is approximately £3 billion. About £2 billion is estimated, by Biffa, to come from collection and disposal of commercial and industrial waste, £650 million from municipal collection and £350 million from municipal disposal.

CONTENTS OF THE BRITISH DUSTBIN

7% Plastic

8% Metal

10% Glass

10% Paper (dust)

12% Miscellaneous textiles

20% Putrescible

33% Paper and cardboard

TOP 10 WASTE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES				
Ranking	Parent Company	UK turnover (£m)	1990	1991
1	Shanks & McEwan	95	97	100
2	Cleanaway	91	94	95
3	Leigh Environmental	95	92	85
4	Biffa	95	90	85
5	Tyler Environmental	30	38	50
6	Drivewater Sabey	35	37	44
7	UK Waste	35	38	42
8	Hales	39	37	35
9	BFI	39	32	35
10	Waste Management	26	30	31

Source: NatWest Securities

TOTAL WASTE SOLUTIONS

Available Worldwide

WASTE DISPOSAL

WASTE COLLECTION

ENVIRONMENTAL

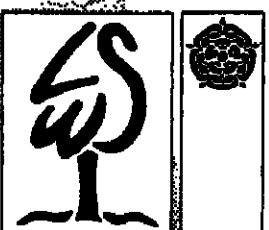
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Europe plays fair

THE EC has a dual motive in introducing strict regulations to harmonise community-wide waste disposal costs and standards. Apart from minimising waste and pollution, the EC Commission hopes to iron out differences in national policies inimical to a free market.

Germany's tough environmental laws and its expensive parallel waste collection scheme (DSD) inflate industrial costs and may be providing some backhanded protection by discouraging foreign companies from setting up business there.

The different national culinary styles and shopping habits are likely to prevent a genuine level playing field for some time. According to Richard Goldsbrough, of Hambros bank, north Europeans tend to buy more packaged food than their southern neighbours, who buy more fresh fruit and vegetables directly from the market, producing compostable waste. He believes this will keep north-European based companies at a cost disadvantage in having to pay the EC's swinging levies on recycling packaging.

Companies which feared that excessive environmental zeal by governments was threatening their profits have set up the European Recovery and Recycling Association (ERRA). The association comprises some 30 multinationals, including Nestlé, Carrefour and Pechiney, Heineken, Coca Cola and Procter & Gamble. ERRA provides a business-friendly environmental lobby, which aims to use market-led methods of recovering domestic waste.

Currently the most disruptive force in the market is the flood of German waste material into other EC markets.

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Hazards hidden in exports

Campaigners distrust EC laws that will ban sending toxic waste to non-OECD countries

The shipment and disposal of hazardous waste has ignited controversy as fierce as the incinerators that burn the stuff. Greenpeace, the environmental pressure group, wants a complete ban on exports of hazardous waste, especially from industrialised countries to the developing world. *David Rudnick writes.*

Madeline Cobbing, the pressure group's anti-waste trade campaigner, distrusts the effectiveness of new European Community legislation, due for implementation next May, banning exports to non-OECD countries. "It's full of loopholes; it will allow exports if they are destined for recycling, but there's no way of guaranteeing this will be their genuine purpose."

Greenpeace can point to disturbing precedents, such as the 463 tonnes of outdated pesticides shipped by German traders to Albania and labelled as "humanitarian aid", though classified as hazardous waste under German law.

Waste industry spokesmen occasionally voice similar concerns. Rechem International, part of the Shanks and McEwan group, says: "There is much evidence to suggest a massive, often illegal, trade in toxic waste to the Third World." Rechem believes the dumping of 8,000 drums of toxic waste on a Nigerian village by an Italian waste-disposal company represents "possibly just the tip of the iceberg."

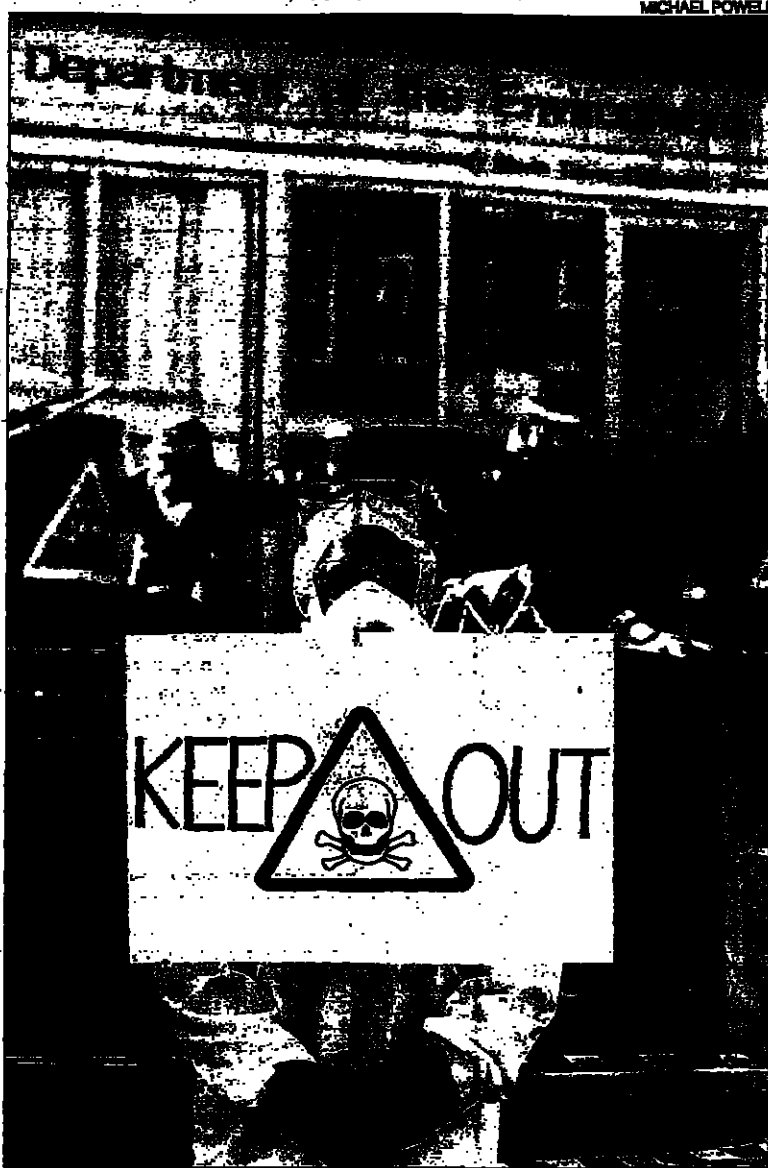
Where Rechem and Greenpeace part company is on the issue of incineration

of the waste. There are three high-temperature incinerators for destroying hazardous waste in the UK: two are at Rechem's plants at Pontypool and Fawley, the other is Cleanaway's at Ellesmere Port. John Shaughnessy, Rechem's external affairs manager, estimates that about 30 per cent of the company's business comes from destroying foreign customers' hazardous waste.

Greenpeace, appalled, has been organising local opposition in Pontypool, capitalising on the NIMBY (not-in-my-backyard) principle. Ms Cobbing says: "The further waste is taken from its producer the more of a hazard it becomes. Incineration doesn't always destroy toxins; it processes them into other by-products, leaving a dangerous residue." Industry spokesmen reject these arguments and come across as green as Greenpeace. Says one: "Modern waste incineration is cleaner than its hoary image; it gives off fewer pollutants than a garden bonfire."

Since hazardous waste has been a fact of life since the industrial revolution it has to be disposed of somehow, and high-temperature (1,100°C) incineration certainly seems safer than storage or burial. All hazardous waste incinerators are strictly regulated by the pollution inspectorate and local waste-disposal authorities.

The thumbs-up has also been given in the latest Royal Commission report on environmental pollution, according to Mr Shaughnessy. "Storing hazardous waste can lead potentially to



Warning sign: Greenpeace demonstrators make a Whitehall protest

leakage, and where countries abroad cannot call on the incineration capacity we have in the UK, they add to environmental danger by storing their dangerous waste," he says.

He concludes that by taking in other countries' dirty washing UK hazardous waste breakers are protecting rather than imperilling the environment. "Ultra-green Germany has about six times the high-temperature incinerating capacity of the UK, and critics of

this method of toxic waste disposal have no realistic alternative to offer."

According to official estimates, the UK produces 3.3 million tonnes of hazardous waste a year, but Frost and Sullivan, independent consultants, working on broader definitions, put the figure at closer to 7 million tonnes. Germany is easily Europe's leading hazardous waste producer at 18 million tonnes, followed by Italy (9.8 million tonnes) and the UK.

Energy for the asking

The ability to make electricity from waste is all but unexploited

THE methods of converting household and other waste into electricity range from incinerating rubbish in purpose-built power stations to drawing off gas from landfill refuse sites.

The attractions of waste-energy schemes are considerable but the potential remains largely untapped. About 70 per cent of the landfill gas — chiefly methane — generated by decomposing waste escapes into the atmosphere.

A derisory 32 MW (megawatts) of the 66,000 MW produced by the UK electricity industry is generated from methane, according to a report by Biffa Waste Services.

The conversion of landfill refuse to energy could contribute marginally to conserving fossil-fuel reserves. So far it is used mostly as a supplementary fuel in boilers and brick and cement kilns.

Unfortunately, landfill gas is a potentially explosive and asphyxiating mixture. Landfill

sites that contain putrescent domestic waste as well as inert industrial detritus are more profitable to run since they give off more gas. "That is why the UK industry is resisting an EC move to separate the two and establish monolandfills," says Clare Deanesly of Gouldens, an environment law firm.

The UK is the EC's largest user of landfill gas from refuse. Nottingham has had a heat-exchange plant in operation for 20 years, generating electricity from waste to heat housing estates. More recently, Blue Circle Waste Management installed a £2.3 million incinerator at Hillingdon Hospital, Middlesex, which can

burn 40 tonnes of medical waste daily — producing steam fed back to the hospital. Both incineration and landfill received a shot in the arm from the Non Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO) scheme, introduced as a prelude to electricity privatisation.

Environmental pressure groups roundly condemn incineration's inclusion in NFFO. Madeline Cobbing of Greenpeace says: "Incinerator operators receive £19.95 for each tonne of waste they burn. This discourages recycling since recyclable paper is an eminently combustible material." She quotes the findings of independent US analysts who show that "recycling saves three to five times as much energy as is produced by incinerating municipal solid waste."

● Recycling versus incineration by Jeffrey Morris and Diana Canconeri, Sound Resource Management Inc, Seattle, US

New for old if the price is right

The UK drags behind Europe in recycling its materials

The profits from recycling can occasionally be remarkable. A recent study by Biffa Waste Services cites the case of a hotel and restaurant chain that found it was paying waste companies £15,000 a year to dispose of 500 tons of aluminium cans, worth £250,000.

Unfortunately the economics of recycling are rather more complex than this story alone might suggest. A recent government-commissioned report by Environmental Resources Ltd (ERL) has questioned the cost-effectiveness of market-based schemes

to promote recycling. The report concluded that collecting significant volumes of recyclable materials from household waste would require subsidies of up to £236 per ton. Worse, meeting the government's ambitious target of recycling a quarter of household waste by the year 2000 could cost £1 billion a year.

Peter Jones, of Biffa, who chairs the National Recycling Forum, rejects these cost estimates. He says none of the present recycling schemes has developed to the point where

the financial implications can properly be evaluated.

Despite all the attention paid to domestic waste, it accounts for only 3 to 4 per cent of all UK waste, according to the environmentalists. John Hinchins. Even here, the devoted army of do-it-yourself domestic recyclers has failed to move the UK off the bottom of the European league. We recover only 5 per cent of household waste compared with Germany's 10 per cent and Finland's 20 per cent. Recycling offers no panacea

for waste disposal worldwide. Maggie Thurgood, campaign director of WARMER (World Action for Recycling Materials and Energy from Rubbish), puts things in perspective: "Aluminium, steel and glass can theoretically be recycled more or less indefinitely. Paper fibres become shorter and weaker with every processing, paper can at best be recycled four times."

Paper and board accounts for about a third of UK dustbin waste, but of the 5.13 million tons of paper and board manufactured here in 1992, 60 per cent was from raw material supplied by waste-paper merchants, up from 35 per cent in 1970. Ian Cooper, a specialist consultant, reckons that the UK's waste paper utilisation rate is now among the world's highest. Unlike paper, glass does not

deteriorate when it is continuously recycled. The savings from recycling come not from lower raw material costs but from reduced energy consumption. But the UK is bottom of the European league, recycling only 21 per cent of the glass it uses, against an EC average of 46 per cent.

The aluminium drinks can is the success story of UK recycling. Smelting used cans saves 95 per cent of the energy needed to make aluminium from the raw material bauxite. The UK's recycling rate has soared from 2 per cent in 1989 to 16 per cent in 1992, but even so only Ireland (13 per cent) pips Britain for Europe's wooden spoon.

The UK recycled about 12.5 per cent of steel cans in 1992, a 25 per cent expansion helped by British Steel Tiplate's save-a-can campaign, which offers local authorities a guaranteed £45 per ton.



The Institute of Waste Management is the leading professional body representing all sectors of the industry and covering every aspect of the operation and statutory control for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastes for the protection of the environment.

The aims of the Institute are to promote standards of professionalism and excellence throughout the industry.

Among the valuable services offered to members of the Institute are, expert training in relevant subjects, professional educational qualifications, regular technical seminars and workshops on topical issues.

The Institute also produces numerous publications relevant to the industry including, quarterly technical proceedings, industrial guidelines, scientific papers and an internationally recognised monthly journal entitled 'Wastes Management' which reports the latest news, views, practices and technical innovations.

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NAWDC is the representative body of the UK's commercial waste management industry. Its 170 members are involved in all aspects of waste management including: collection, recycling, transport, treatment, and disposal. The association provides comprehensive training for personnel in the industry and campaigns in both the UK and Europe for higher standards and better enforcement of waste disposal legislation. It also publishes a code of conduct and guidance on waste management issues.

NAWDC's annual conference, held in September, is a major forum for waste management issues.

For more information contact:

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EDUCATION

School policy is hard labour

The Tories are vulnerable, but John O'Leary finds the Labour party also struggling with its education plans

When the flak started flying over Labour's under-performance in opposition, the education team was as vulnerable as any. John Patten has presented us with an open goal, and we have still not been scoring, said one socialist MP last week.

Ann Taylor, the shadow education secretary, has not enjoyed a good press. Labour's apparent reluctance to endorse industrial action was an obvious handicap in the run-up to the teachers' boycott of testing, and positive initiatives have been thin on the ground.

The attempt to put that right began last week, with the first of a series of seminars that will re-examine Labour's whole approach to education. By September, there will be a green paper, and a year later the party conference will debate a detailed new policy on which to fight a general election.

Mrs Taylor believes that the party must go back to first principles if it is to make the most of an area in which it is traditionally strong, and adapt its policy to an education system that has changed substantially since Labour was last in government.

Open-ended consultation might allow the party to consider some hitherto unthinkable changes. Jeff Rooker, the higher education spokesman, has already caused a stir by raising questions about one sacred cow: the student grant. Others might include the future of local education authorities, the party's attitude to independent schools and opting out.

Mrs Taylor says: "Education desperately needs a period of stability, but we cannot simply freeze the system where it is now. We have to look forward to the next century and build a consensus. It might seem a long way off, but the next election takes us through to the next millennium. That demands a degree of vision in our plans."

"We believe education should be open for as long as possible, rather than creating obstacles. It is also about countering disadvantage, not reinforcing privilege. Whatever we consider must conform to those principles."

Within that broad agenda, nothing is ruled out. The first of the five seminars opening the consultation process demonstrated both the strengths and the weaknesses of such an approach. The 30 invited participants were not all party members. They were drawn from a range of interest groups, as well as from the academic world and the teaching profession, and their proposals were predictably diffuse.



Ann Taylor, Labour spokeswoman for education: "We have to look forward to the next century and build a consensus."

The morning meeting in London consisted more of a series of prepared statements than a real debate.

The seminar, given the title Tomorrow's Schools, was intended to focus on each school's relationship to the community. The vexed question of opting out, the fate of local education authorities and the role of parents were controversial issues to be addressed from the start.

Those who did address the subject had a range of opinions and interests that could never be distilled into the most catholic green paper. Some were determined to revive the concept of community schools, open from 8am to 10pm; heads wanted to know where the money was coming from. A few found school walls an unjustifiable barrier between the school and the local community; at least one considered a 10-foot steel

fence essential to allow the school to invest in education, rather than repairs. Several wanted to sweep away Conservative education reforms; others recognised that some were popular with the most loyal Labour voters. One realist said that the starting point should be the recognition that "tomorrow's schools" would be falling down, and would eat up education

Education is about countering disadvantage, not reinforcing privilege

budgets. Even the use of term such as "fundholder" or "bidding" was too much for some of those at last week's seminar. But the idealistic tendency was challenged by others who appealed to Mrs Taylor and her team not to put forward potentially expensive pious hopes that would carry no credibility with the voters. A minority was prepared to admit that developments

such as the deeper involvement of business, financial autonomy for schools and greater quality control, had been positive.

Yet the seminar hardly touched sensitive issues such as what to do with more than 1,000 grant-maintained schools and more than 100 neutered education authorities if Labour wins. Mrs Taylor's team is prepared to contemplate radical changes to education authorities, and a variety of local arrangements; and is likely to include some in the green paper.

Democratic accountability is a prerequisite, but its form is open for debate. American-style school boards might be an option, or directly-elected education authorities with reduced powers. Schools may simply be allowed to take as much direct responsibility as they can handle.

Later seminars will focus on teacher education, qualifications and assessment, and effective learning and teaching. Some, particularly on higher education, may be more focused and may throw up more concrete ideas. Discussion of

some variant of a graduate tax, perhaps using National Insurance contributions, has already begun. Weighing party activists' reluctance to abandon a longstanding commitment to restore the value of student grants against claims of greater social justice for sub-degree and part-time students and a pressing need to put more money into universities, will be an instructive test of Labour's radicalism.

The whole exercise, however, has other dangers. With education high up the political agenda, can the party afford to wait 15 months to espouse new ideas? Much of the criticism thus far has been that its leaders are too predictably reactive. Even a tentative move towards the acceptance of opting out, instigated by Mrs Taylor's predecessor, Jack Straw, was swiftly reversed.

A green paper that is deliberately wide-ranging, setting out all the options for future policy, will make it difficult for Mrs Taylor to be more positive before the autumn of 1994. Having ridiculed Mr Patten for "going into purdah" as his own white paper was compiled, she cannot afford to lay herself open to similar charges.

What place for religion?

The school is a microcosm of society. It reflects what society is like in two important ways. First, it is in part the transmission of culture and values. The second is that if society is clear about what values are held in common, then the aims and objectives of education will, to that extent be clear, but if there is a lack of clarity or confusion in society, then that will be reflected in the classroom.

What, then, of the place of religion, and indeed, even more difficult, the place of the spiritual development of children? Consistently in our society the importance of education in matters religious has been re-emphasised, for example in the Butler Education Act of 1944 and more recently in the Education Acts of 1988 and 1992. The latter requires also the inspection of provision in schools for the spiritual, as well as the moral, social and cultural development of pupils. The issue is that of defining the brief given on the one hand to teachers and on the other hand to the inspectors. Does 'society' have a clear view?

There are, I believe, two very important statutory points of reference. The first is the great series of acts, beginning with the great Toleration Act of 1688 and stretching to the Religious Disabilities Act of 1846 in which parliament articulated society's self-understanding in matters religious. A vision of society was given expression in which high value was placed on religious freedom.

In another series of acts, beginning with the Elementary Education Act of 1870 and extending up to the present, the right to education (and, indeed, the compulsion to attend school) was given statutory form. Once again, parliament has progressively articulated the value which our society attaches to education for all.

These two statutory points of reference meet in the classroom, but they do so in a way that is less than clear. We attach value, it seems, to religious diversity, and we attach value to universal education. What is the place of religion and spiritual development in this context? Butler's solution — a great piece of ecclesiastical brokering — was none the less referred to by Churchill as "Zoroastrianism" or "The County Council Creed" and has continued to cause difficulty.

There are, of course, radical solutions which can be proposed

and these are of three different types. The first is to hand over to "the experts" (i.e. the churches and religious leaders) all responsibility for religious education. The second is to accept the solution adopted in the United States — to declare schools "no-go" areas for religion. The third option is to declare religion either unimportant or intellectually flawed and therefore unworthy of further discussion.

Each of these radical proposals will have its supporters, but I do not believe that any one will command wide support, and parliament seems to take the same view. Our current position is that provision must be made for either separate denominational religious education or for religious education based on an "agreed syllabus". In addition, and apparently separately, provision is to be made for the spiritual development of all pupils, across the school day and week, and alongside rather than absorbed by provision for religious education.

To some this seems muddled, but I regard it as a virtue because this separate provision pays due regard to two absolutely fundamental features of our society. The first is that we are committed to the importance of religion within a religiously free and diverse society. The second is that this provision recognises that within such a society there is a fundamental need for a common language in which as citizens we can reflect upon the profound questions addressed by religions.

Conversely it would be a dangerous error to assume that basic questions about the nature of human life and about the world in which we live can only be discussed within the sanctuaries of particular religious groups.

The next task is to define what such "non-sectarian" provision for development of the spirit could be. There are no short answers here, but we could do much worse than develop the remarks of Kant, who referred to the wonder and awe induced in him by reflection upon "the moral law within" and "the starry heavens above". Let this be seen as a rather flaccid suggestion, let me say quite clearly that this is a shorthand for making central to education the task of self-understanding, and the capacity to stand in awe and wonder at the world.

The author is the vice-chancellor of London University and head of the Office for Standards in Education



Stewart Sutherland

From supermarkets to car makers, more companies are investing in Britain's future with sponsorship

Getting down to business

Business and education have always been uneasy bedfellows. Although many schools have established successful local partnerships, mutual suspicion has been more common at national level.

There are signs that this is changing, however. Education is becoming one of the favourite areas for business sponsorship in an increasingly tight market.

Perhaps the best known venture is Tesco's controversial but successful Computers for Schools promotion. Almost 8,000 schools collected enough vouchers to qualify for equipment worth £3 million. The exercise is being repeated.

Many of the new business ventures have a much lower profile. Safeway, for example, have been working with academics at Oxford Brookes University on a project which could ease teachers' paths through the minutiae of the national curriculum. A computer package details the programmes of study and attainment targets in the core subjects for 11 to 14-year-olds, and also includes a

related teaching programme on waste and recycling.

The package has been offered free to universities and teacher-training departments, which are encouraged to copy the material and supply it to local schools. The aim is to cover the whole national curriculum, updating where necessary.

Howard Ward, the head of the computer unit at Oxford Brookes, who developed the programme with student volunteers, says: "It greatly simplifies the administration of the national curriculum and allows teachers and teacher education students to monitor their own progress in teaching the curriculum."

The development was the idea of Edward Thomson, Safeway's director for the environment, who persuaded the company to put up £50,000 for



Serious play: a Toyota scheme for sponsorship in the community

a project which does not have the commercial returns associated with the Tesco scheme. Only the environmental teaching package, which is an optional extra, features the company's activities.

Even multinational companies such as Toyota are beginning to sponsor education projects. The Japanese car

firm started to support science and technology teaching a year ago. When its new plant in Derbyshire opened officially this month, the funding almost doubled to £235,000.

A spokesman for the company said: "We felt that enhancing the quality of science and technology teaching was the best and most appropriate

way we could contribute to the long-term industrial welfare of Britain."

Like Safeway, Toyota has not made great play of its involvement. The company even considered removing its name from the scheme in case it discouraged participation by local companies. In fact, more than 1,000 firms of all sizes have collaborated with schools on projects supported by Toyota's fund.

Grants of about £900 have been matched by training and enterprise councils, enabling clusters of schools to work with local companies on projects tailored to the national curriculum. More than 500 schools throughout Britain were selected for last year's scheme, and the total may rise to 1,500 this year.

The scheme is unusual for its emphasis on primary education, which attracts relative-

ly little support from British companies. It is doubly unusual among Japanese firms, which have tended to go for high-profile university projects when venturing into educational sponsorship.

Toyota's programme has been administered by Business in the Community, which is behind much of the growth in educational sponsorship. Last week it signed up 80 top companies, including Marks & Spencer, McDonald's and Unilever, to a new campaign to increase business involvement in schools. The Aim High programme will cover industrial placements for teachers and pupils, and offer mentors for individual pupils in schools.

Julia Cleverdon, the organisation's chief executive, says: "Business gets involved in education because the links bring commercial benefits. At a time of reform in education, with authority being delegated to the front line under local management of schools, business expertise in managing change is very valuable."

JOHN O'LEARY

Teachers' turn to sit GCSE 'examinations'

Curriculum changes bring an increased out-of-class workload

As an estimated 600,000 16-year-olds struggle to make their mark in the GCSE examinations this month, what will their teachers be doing?

With the national curriculum being examined in GCSE for the first time in 1994 — in English, mathematics and science — many of the nation's teachers will be going back to school to catch up with the changes needed to meet the new requirements.

Example material and ways in which coursework can be

tackled will predominate in the teachers' return to the learning side of the classroom.

As many as 100 will meet at one time, split into smaller groups. The meetings will be held throughout the country, and continue until the middle of July, to be followed by more meetings in the 1993-94 academic year. Between September 1992 and next month, about 18,000 teachers will have attended 600 meetings through the Southern Examining Group (SEG) alone.

With a "super A" grade also

being introduced in 1994, for the very top students, and consequently more-demanding attainment targets being set, coursework will play an important part in separating the higher-performing students from the rest.

In science, the top performers will have to use scientific knowledge and an understanding of laws, theories and

models to develop hypotheses which will seek to explain the behaviour of objects and events they have studied. They will need to evaluate their findings and reach conclusions. In mathematics, they will be required to explore independently a new area of the subject and to handle abstract concepts of proof and definition. It would be diffi-

cult, if not impossible, to assess these criteria, other than through coursework.

Coursework is one of the particularly successful aspects of GCSE, but not everyone likes it, some teachers included, often because they have not been used to teaching that way. Undoubtedly, it has been a strong motivating factor in GCSE, and teachers of English have been so enthusiastic about it that many courses were assessed entirely by this method.

National curriculum rules

prevent this continuing, and coursework will be limited to 40 per cent of the final assessment. English teachers now need to adapt their teaching to suit the new rules and prepare their students for written examinations, to be marked by the examining groups.

The teachers' skills will continue to be tested right up to the point of assessing their students in 1994.

GEORGE TURNBULL
The author is the SEG's director of public relations

The Generation Game



This week's TES Computers Update explains why adults should know more about computer games. And they could also find out more about CD Rom, classroom practice, and the latest software and hardware.

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Smaller demands bring respite for Lloyd's names

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

CASH-strapped names at Lloyd's are being offered a breathing space by being sent demands for money far below the amount needed to meet the insurance markets' expected record loss of up to £2.8 billion, due to be unveiled next Tuesday.

Early estimates put the cash calls, which have to be paid by the end of July, at about £1.3 billion, about half the 1990 losses. The postponement of bills reflects managing agents' attempts to mitigate the impact of the 1990 underwriting year's loss, which is expected to hit most of the market's 20,000 names.

The decision to delay demands for some of the money is a welcome help to names, many of whom are already under severe financial pressure after last year's loss of £2.1 billion. The move was triggered by the Corporation of Lloyd's, which has been urging agents to demand as little cash as possible from names.

In its first ever business plan, published in April, the corporation said: "We are acutely aware of the extreme financial difficulties faced by many names." As a result, the plan said syndicates could partially delay calls for closed year losses if cash is not required immediately to pay claims.

Agents have responded to the suggestion and are writing to names telling them their syndicates' 1990 results and how much they must pay immediately. Under normal circumstances, all losses have to be paid by the end of July.

Paul Archard, managing director at Murray Lawrence Agencies, said: "Wherever possible, underwriters are trying to call the bare minimum. Of our 15 syndicates, four have made profits and of the 11 that have made losses, we are only calling the full amount on five." Names on the agency's

motor syndicate 913 have not been asked to pay any of the 15 per cent loss, saving £7.2 million.

Similar tales are emerging from other agencies and early estimates suggest that less than half the year's losses are likely to be initially demanded. Lord Strathairn, chairman of RW Sturge, the members agency arm of Sturge Group, said: "We are seeing syndicates in the market with 10 per cent losses which are not calling any of it, while others are calling only small amounts."

In the case of Sturge, the 5,782 names on its flagship marine syndicate 206 are receiving demands for £35 million of the total £61.25 million of losses. The syndicate had a stamp capacity of £175 million in 1990 and for an average underwriting line of £30,000 a name has to pay £6,000 by the end of July, while the £4,500 balance is being carried forward.

Another Sturge syndicate, 210, which underwrites non-marine risks, made a 36 per cent loss, which equates to a deficit of £66 million, of which names have received demands for £46 million. Similar percentage losses have been made by Merrett Group's syndicate 418, which writes non-marine and excess of loss reinsurance

business, and Colin Mander's syndicate 552, but in both cases names are only being asked to pay a tenth of the losses by the July due date.

The underwriter for Secretan marine syndicate 367, which had a stamp capacity of £134 million, is collecting about half the 45 per cent loss made. The 4,744 names have had demands for the £29.5 million balance put on hold.

The delays in payments are not restricted to the marine and non-marine markets. Together with the Murray Lawrence motor syndicate 913, names on the Leadenhall motor syndicate 254, the management of which was transferred to Sturge Motor & Personal Risks Syndicate Management on January 1, 1992, are being asked to pay two-thirds of the loss. The 2,919 names on Wellington Underwriting Agencies' aviation syndicate 97 do not have to pay any of the £1.74 million loss.

For some names with stop-loss policies, the impact of the 1990 year's record losses will be lessened. In the last couple of weeks, David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, and Peter Middleton, chief executive, announced further steps to help financially stricken names who are now able to use some of the money held in their 1993 premium trust funds to meet this year's cash calls.

Another factor which acts to delay cash calls is when syndicates decide not to close the year. A large number of syndicates are leaving their 1990 years open because of the uncertainty caused by the business plan's proposal to sweep up all policies written before 1986 and reinsure them into a new company.

As part of the process, Lloyd's has to decide how much money has to be put aside to meet claims against these policies which relate particularly to asbestos and pollution claims in the US.



Middleton: helping



Trade roundup: Michael Heseltine detects scope in Argentina for British exporters

Argentina keen to boost trade

By Colin Nambrough, World Trade Correspondent

MICHAEL Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, has returned from a trip to Argentina and Mexico, deeply impressed with the dynamism of the two economies and highly optimistic about the scope they offer for British exporters.

Just over a decade since the Falklands war, Mr Heseltine detected no Argentinian hostility towards doing business with Britain. In an interview with *The Times* after his return to London last week, he said that, in fact, he had found an "open welcome — indeed, enthusiasm to restore trade".

Mr Heseltine noted that President Menem of Argentina had made clear that he had ring-fenced the outstanding issue of the Falklands, which meant that the diplomatic

dispute would not be allowed to affect bilateral trade.

The presence in Argentina of a substantial colony of people of British descent had to be an asset, Mr Heseltine said. But he emphasised that his meetings in Argentina suggested that the development of trade by no means depended on these ties.

Before the Falklands war, Argentina was Britain's second largest market in Latin America, with exports of £161 million. British exports fell to a low of £3.8 million in 1985, but have been picking up rapidly since the Argentinian embargo was lifted in 1989 and diplomatic ties restored in 1990. Mr Heseltine's visit follows a visit to Argentina by Douglas Hurd, the foreign

secretary, earlier this year. Last year, Britain exported about £18 million worth of goods to Argentina.

Mr Heseltine, who was accompanied by senior British business executives, including Robert Evans, chairman of British Gas, and Sir Ronald Grierson, chairman of GEC International, was impressed by the speed and determination with which Argentina and Mexico were deregulating their economies and dismantling barriers to trade.

Apart from the opportunities Argentina's privatisation programme offers to British investors, UK firms have been busy entering the market there. Shell, Unilever, Tate & Lyle and Ladbroke have made substantial investments.

SNC expected to cut Amber profit forecast

SMITH New Court, broker to Amber Day, the discount retailer, is today expected to downgrade its profits estimate for the group for the current year. Morgan Stanley, the investment bank, last week reduced its current-year forecast by £700,000 because of losses on the import and distribution businesses. Smith New Court's downgrading comes amid concern among some institutions that Amber has still to appoint a chief executive eight months after the departure of Philip Green. One source said: "There is at least one institution which is furious at the lack of growth at the group and that Philip Green was allowed to become a rival again through being able to buy the Parker and Franks chain, which has quite a few outlets in the same towns as Amber Day."

Candidates from inside and outside the group are being canvassed for the job. A source said: "One stumbling block to an appointment is the handsome package offered to the new chairman, Stacey Ellis, when he joined." Mr Ellis, who joined the company from Inchcape, draws a £75,000 salary and has options on a million shares at 28p.

Clayform stake bought

SHARES in Clayform, the property company, are expected to soar from Friday's close of 14p after news that Martin Landau, the former head of City Merchant Developers, has bought a 5 per cent stake at 14p a share. Fund raising to recapitalise the group is now expected. Robert Ware, managing director, has sold off Stead & Simpson, the shoe manufacturing subsidiary, and reduced debt from £130 million three years ago to about £30 million.

DIY retailers 'lost £45m'

THE big four do-it-yourself retailers lost £45 million in a disastrous price war last year, according to a report from Verdict, the retail research organisation. The report questions the wisdom of last year's deep discounting, which forced Du It All into loss while B&Q and Texas Homecare both gave up a full percentage point in their trading margin. Verdict says a truce has been more or less declared this year with B&Q leading the way with its "everyday low prices" campaign.

Property interest grows

A SURVEY of fund managers' investment plans, conducted by Gallup for Smith New Court, has found the highest level of interest in UK property in three years. The survey, of 95 institutions handling funds totalling £661 billion, showed a balance of 6 per cent of fund managers planning to lift their UK equity holdings, down from 18 per cent in May, but 22 per cent of respondents want to increase property holdings, against 12 per cent in May and zero in February.

AG makes debut

AG HOLDINGS is coming to the stock market today, valued at £22.5 million. AG, at one time a family business and Britain's biggest manufacturer of wood, cardboard and steel reels for storing and transporting cable and wire rope, is looking to expand into the Continent. Three existing family shareholders will sell out and the new management will take firm control. AG, which is floating 49 per cent of the enlarged share capital, will also raise £2.05 million of fresh funds.

Severn Trent expected to top up dividend

THIS week's corporate activity will be dominated by the privatised utilities, with the attention of the City and small shareholders focusing on dividends as the water companies and regional electricity distributors unveil annual results. Analysts expect just about all of the utilities reporting this week to turn in higher annual profits, although increases will not be as spectacular as in the past. However, shareholders are unlikely to be disappointed as the utilities live up to their reputations for being generous with their dividends.

Severn Trent, which is due to unveil figures on Thursday, is the biggest of the water companies reporting and John Bellak, the chairman, is expected to turn in final pre-tax profits of £268 million (£265.4 million), according to UBS. Market forecasts range from £265 million to £275 million. UBS predicts a dividend of 21.1p (19.3p).

TODAY

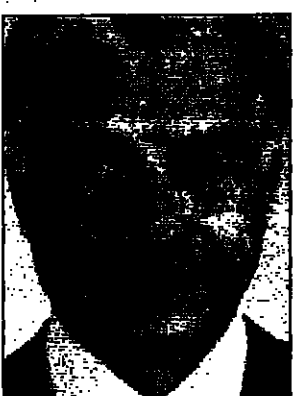
Full-year pre-provision profits from BET, the business services group, should show signs of recovery, but the City's investment community is split on whether the dividend will be maintained or cut, as trading remains stub-

bornly depressed. Analysts await a full progress report from John Clark and Sir Christopher Harding, the chief executive and chairman respectively, who have been trying to sort out inherited problems, which many fear may still take time to resolve.

Stephen Clapham, at Credit Lyonnais Laing, has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £70 million (£18.5 million), before any further provisions to cover asset writedowns and restructuring costs. Market forecasts have a wide range, from £35 million to £75 million. CLF predicts earnings of 3.7p a share (0.9p loss per share), with the dividend expected to be cut to 3.5p (6.5p) for the year.

East Midlands Electricity kicks off the regional electricity companies' reporting season, with analysts predicting final pre-tax profits between £156 million and £175 million (£150 million), with job cuts rather than sales growth seen as the key to the profits rise. The dividend is likely to enjoy a near-13 per cent rise to 19.3p (17.1p), with dividend forecasts ranging from 18.8p to 20p.

Kenwood Appliances, the kitchen appliance group which made its market debut last July, is expected to turn in final pre-tax profits of £9.5



Bellak: Severn cheer



Clark: progress report

million (£9.29 million), according to Albert E Sharp. Interim: M&W, Trust. Final: BET, Chillingham Corp, East Midlands Electricity, Foreign & Colonial, Kenwood Appliances. Economic statistics: Producer price index numbers (May — provisional).

TOMORROW

John Karidis at Hoare Govett expects the benefits of past rationalisation and selective price increases to help full year profits at F&C, the electrical engineering group, adding to £37 million (£30.5 million). Market forecasts range from £37 million to £39 million. Mr Karidis has pencilled in earnings of 6.03p (4.87p) a share, with a divi-

dend of 2.75p (2.3p) predicted. Manweb should lift final profits to between £105 million and £112 million, up from £94.7 million last time. A dividend of 20.5p (18.25p) is predicted. Wessex Water is likely to report final pre-tax profits of £86 million (£76.9 million), says UBS, with the dividend forecast to be increased to 21.6p (18.9p). Market prognosis ranges from £83 million to £88 million.

Interim: Clyde Blowers, David Lloyd Leisure, London & Clydeside, Final: Bedford Property Trust, Channel Holdings, F&C, WFP International, Manweb, Melville Street, Port of London Authority, Group, Wellman, Wessex Water. Economic statistics: Company liquidity survey (Q1), index of output and employment (April), CBI survey of distributive trades (May).

WEDNESDAY

NatWest Securities expects NRC, the transport and distribution group, to announce a 12 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to £42 million, demonstrating the gradually accelerating, but still tender, recovery. Analysts expect sterling's devaluation and recent contracts to boost the group, while household removals and truck rental should also show some improvement. Interim: Chevening Group, Granada Group, Turkey Trust. Final: Craig & Rose (2 int div), London Scottish Bank, Mountview Estates, NRC (2 int div), Portsmouth & Sunderland News, Stirling Group. Economic statistics: Public sector borrowing requirement (May), retail sales (May).

THURSDAY

BZW expects AAH Holdings, the acquisitive healthcare and environmental services group, to report final pre-tax profits of £37 million (£32.2 million). Southern Water is predicted to turn in full-year pre-tax profits of between £118 million and £121 million (£115.1 million). The total dividend is likely to be between 21.1p and 21.3p (19.3p). Nikko, the Japanese securities house, expects full-year profits at South Wales Electricity to rise to £90 million

(£72.5 million), with market forecasts ranging from £85 million to £96 million. The dividend is likely to be increased to 22.2p (19.4p). Interim: Electra Inv Trust, Colwyn Charter Inv Trust, River Plate & General Inv Trust. Final: AAH Holdings, Brookhampton Holdings, Cater Allen Holdings, Chiondo Group, Dart Group, Devonport Kilweir, Dawson International, GEC International, Hardy Oil & Gas, Thomas Locker (Holdings), Oceana Consolidated, Portsmouth Water, Ramco Oil Services, Regellan Properties, Salefield, Severn Trent, South Wales Electricity, Southern Water, Sphera Inv Trust (2 int div), Tor Inv Trust (8 int div). Economic statistics: Machine tools (April), retail prices index (May), new car registrations (May), production figures for vehicle production (May), labour force survey (December 92 — February 93), labour market statistics: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (May — provisional); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes, long-term unemployment (May).

FRIDAY

Interim: Electronic Data Processing, Granger Trust, Henderson Asia Investments. Final: Booth Industries Group, Cambridge Water, Northern Investors, John Swan & Sons, Total Systems. Economic statistics: Major banking groups' monthly statement (end-May), leading indicators figures (May), provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (May).

PHILIP PANGALOS

ITV firms to fight rules on takeovers

THE ITV companies are set to do battle with the government and with each other when they meet Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, today to review takeover rules under the 1990 Broadcasting Act (Susan Gilchrist writes).

From January 1, 1994, the nine largest companies will be able to acquire their smaller rivals. However some of the big players, such as Carlton, LWT and Central, are dissatisfied with this arrangement and want the rules to be changed so that any company, irrespective of its size, can be acquired. With the growing globalisation of the broadcasting industry, they fear the ITV companies will be too small to compete with large international satellite and terrestrial television groups.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5240 (+0.0005)
German mark 2.4757 (+0.0053)
Exchange index 79.3 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2244.2 (+31.0)
FT-SE 100 2861.8 (+31.9)
New York Dow Jones 3505.01 (+40.13)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 20500.95 (-381.29)

THE AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION PLC REDEMPTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION PLC 10% PER CENT DEBENTURE STOCK 1992 TO 1995

In accordance with the conditions of the issue of The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation PLC 10% per cent Debenture Stock 1992-95 set out in the Bank of England's prospectus dated 8th June 1993, The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation PLC hereby gives notice that it will redeem at par all of The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation PLC 10% per cent Debenture Stock 1992-95 on 16th September 1993, for cash. From that date no further interest will accrue.

The Register of the Stock is kept by the Bank of England.

The final interest payment will be made on 16th September 1993 to the persons registered as holders on 18th August 1993. Payment will be made at the rate of £2.6598 per £100 nominal of the Stock, representing 94 days' accrued interest.

Redemption monies will be payable on 16th September 1993 to the persons registered as holders on 18th August 1993. The Bank of England gives notice that the Register will be closed with effect from close of business on 18th August 1993.

Redemption request forms will be issued to stockholders in due course by the Registrar.

Richard D F Bagley
Secretary
14th June 1993.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF MATED LIMITED
The liquidator of Mated Limited, a company incorporated in England, is hereby giving notice to the creditors of the company to submit their claims to him. The liquidator is Mr. J. A. V. Lomas, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The liquidation is being carried out under the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986. The liquidator's office is open for business from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday. The liquidator's telephone number is 071-782 7344. The liquidator's fax number is 071-782 7345. The liquidator's e-mail address is j.lomas@btinternet.com. The liquidator's website is www.mated.co.uk. The liquidator's contact details are as follows: Mr. J. A. V. Lomas, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Telephone: 071-782 7344. Fax: 071-782 7345. E-mail: j.lomas@btinternet.com. Website: www.mated.co.uk.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Answers from page 40

STAMTON
(c) Chess-men of a design now accepted as standard, an epitome of Howard Staunton (1810-74), English chess-player and writer: "Chessmen of fanciful shapes and forms are often made as curiosities. For actual play, most players would prefer to use the Staunton chessmen, the pattern of which Howard Staunton designed in 1849."

RAMBUTAN
(a) A malayan tree bearing the rambutan fruit, which belongs to the family Sapindaceae, from its Malayan name: "The only alternatives were some rambutan trees in the back of the garden. We were a little surprised that the new trees, though they had only a small supply of ripe rambutan, stimulated a bout of nest-building."

CHINESE WALL
(a) An insurmountable barrier (to understanding, etc) transferred figuratively from the defensive wall built between China and Mongolia in the 3rd century BC. T. S. Eliot, 1934: "After the erection of the Chinese Wall of Milion, blank verse has suffered not only arrest but retrogression."

KUKI
(c) The slave of a Maori chieftain, also kooky, from the Maori, adapted from Cook's "a chief had set one of his kookies (or slaves) to watch a piece of ground planted with koomera, or sweet potato."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
Solution: 1 Rb6! wins, as if 1... Rxb6 2 Rxa7 mate.

'Managed trade' issue brings conflict to US-Japanese talks

Wolfgang Münchau
reports on the attempt by
Washington and Tokyo
to establish a blueprint
for bilateral trade policy
ahead of the G7 summit

The vocabulary of trade policy is full of expressions that fail to live up to their threats and promises. After "Fortress Europe" and the "trade war", we are now entertained to a new concept, a euphemism known in America as "managed trade". Its number of definitions is surpassed only by the number of its opponents, whose reactions have proved far more unequivocal than the one at which they are directed.

None of this would matter greatly, had managed trade not turned into the key issue of conflict in the US-Japanese trade talks, which started in Washington at the weekend. The idea behind the talks is to set out a blueprint for bilateral US-Japanese trade policy in the 1990s, and the self-imposed deadline is early next month, before the G7 summit in Tokyo. The importance of the negotiations cannot be overestimated, unlike the importance of summit, which has degenerated into a photo-opportunity for the leaders and their wives. Trade is not photogenic, but important nevertheless, and of all trading relations between any two countries, the Japanese-US relationship is not only the most significant, it also the most imbalanced and, therefore, the most strained and the most dangerous.

The outcome of the talks will also give an indication whether the high priests of trade "activism" in the Clinton administration really mean what they have been saying over the past few years or, rather, what they have been writing in books and academic journals. Much of this concerned, the concept of managed trade.

Laura D'Andrea Tyson, chairman of President Clinton's council of economic advisers, who describes herself as a "cautious activist" on trade, has written an entire book dedicated to the subject. American trade officials, meanwhile, whose concerns are less academic, have been busy translating the theory into a secret draft agreement, details of which leaked out last week, to the anger of the Japanese negotiators.

This agreement contains a specific blueprint as to how to tackle trade disputes in the future, complete with procedures, even deadlines and numeric targets, although the draft stops short of mentioning sanctions explicitly. The expression "managed trade" does not appear in the text if only because it would constitute a *cassus belli* by itself, given Japanese hypersensitivities on this issue.

In view of these sensitivities, the American strategy is to pursue a managed trade agreement, but to call it by some other name, in order not to patronise the Japanese, at least for the time being. The memory of American car executives making fools out of themselves in Tokyo last year, when they accused the Japanese of protectionism for failing to buy US cars, when even Americans would not commit such an act of folly, is still fresh



Ready to go: cars manufactured by Toyota waiting to be loaded at the Nagoya Wharf Centre in Japan

in the minds of diplomats. But the welcome return to diplomatic courtesy cannot hide the fundamental ideological conflict between the two countries on the issue of trade, and it will prove intriguing to see how the two sides will reconcile their differences.

From an American point of view, it will be difficult to resist the temptation that managed trade, in its various shades and definitions, can offer. None of the self-regulating free market mechanisms appears to have made the slightest dent in the US deficit. The deficit seems immune to the relative state of the US or Japanese economies in the business cycle. Supply side changes, such as the improvement in US productivity and in the quality of its products, have also done little so far. Nor has the rising value of the yen, or the attempts by the Japanese to open up an increasing number of markets to foreign competition.

The US trade deficit with Japan is structural. Fortunately, the majority of Americans, Democrats and Republicans alike, no longer believe in the complacent notions that trade deficits do not matter as long as they are financeable or that dumping by foreign companies constitutes a "gift" to US consumers. A strategy to reduce the deficit has thus become the key priority in US trade policy. This strategy must include specific, meaningful numerical targets, for otherwise it would be a waste of time. It is on this issue that the Japanese get nervous. The two countries operate a managed trade agreement in one industrial sector, in semiconductors, whereby Japan has

committed itself to purchase at least 20 per cent of its domestic consumption from US companies. Japan just managed to reach this target by the end of last year, with great difficulty and under loud protests. The success of this "market sharing" agreement boosted those in the administration in favour of targeting. They argue with some conviction, that without the semiconductor agreement, Americans would be selling fewer semiconductors to Japan. In other words, managed trade can mean more trade.

Market sharing is the most extreme version of managed trade in that it does not focus merely on fair competition but on specific outcomes of competition, or it may even sacrifice fair competition in pursuit of the desired outcome. At best, it can be applied only selectively, such as in industry where the outcome of a competitive "game" could be construed to be predictable. In most industries, this is simply not the case. It would be nonsensical to apply market sharing to the car industry or any other consumer industry. By contrast, in industries where there are only two or three competitors worldwide, such as in commercial aircraft, cross-country market share comparisons can sometimes act as a reasonably accurate indicator of protectionism or foul play. Overt and hidden subsidies are especially common in hi-tech industries, where trade flows are at their most distorted and subsidies at their most common. If competition between two

companies, such as Boeing and Airbus can never be totally fair, can trade policy then be entirely liberal? If domestic competition policy, as pursued in Europe and the US, takes a tough stance on issues such as subsidies, dumping and other unfair competition, why should trade policy, which has the same concerns, take a different stance? Or why should countries forego sovereignty over trade policy, when they balk at the idea of foregoing sovereignty over competition policy, especially amid continued scepticism about GATT enforcement procedures?

Whatever the merits of managed trade or free trade, it is clear that US trade policy has been moving steadily towards managed trade. At the same time, America is also abandoning its laissez-faire approach on industrial policy. These shifts constitute a firm rejection of the classical theory of international trade, according to which free trade is beneficial even if foreign competitors engage in foul play, and, according to which, unfair subsidies of foreign companies are nothing but "gifts" to domestic consumers, and, henceforth, desirable. A look at the devastating industrial upheavals in some US regions, brought about, in part, by unmanaged trade, would quickly dispel the notion of free trade as a "win-win game" for each participant at all times. If free trade knew no losers, there would be no pressure in Congress to crack down on unfair trading practices. The best that can be hoped for is for free trade to survive as a desirable outcome of a balanced policy.

Trust Hanson

IF the increased powers that Hanson is demanding for its chairman are merely good housekeeping, as the company claims, one wonders what a spring clean would be like. Few shareholders like the threat of their company's meetings being hijacked by pressure groups, but Hanson's draconian counter-measures are the equivalent of a military coup in the world of shareholder democracy.

The new powers will mean that an institutional shareholder with a £1 billion stake will have no right to nominate a director to the board, while an investor wishing to propose an amendment to a motion will need a holding above £550 million. Lord Hanson will be given extensive discretion over the course of every agm, preventing any shareholder voicing dissent more than once.

With interests in dirty industries like coal

mining and quarrying, and other emotive businesses such as cigarette manufacturing, you might have thought from the tone of the amendments that Hanson's meetings had been dogged by demonstrations and outbursts for years, but not so. Hanson argues more often the scene of corporate hero-worship. Only the Navajos have ever dared to disrupt the happy scene and they made their point and left quickly.

Unless overcome by inertia once again, the City's institutional investors are hardly likely to allow such a carve-up of their shareholder rights, regardless of the undignified threat that they will lose their scrip dividend alternative if they do not acquiesce.

Offers of a future review cut no ice, since shareholders would, by then, be in no position to complain.

Banks

DESPITE record bad debt provisions and customer animosity, banks have seen their shares perform as well as almost any this year; the sector stands at a 17-year high relative to the all-share index. Most bank shares, regarded as lowly income stocks since the seventies, now rate a market yield or even a premium.

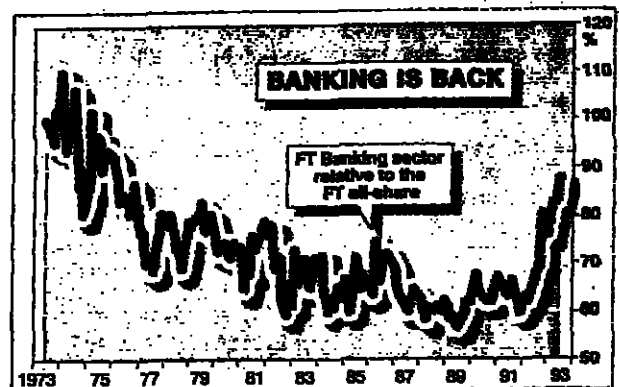
The market can always be relied on to anticipate the first glimmer of a recovery but the euphoria looks overdone, considering that the banks have another two or three years of heavy bad debts and slow lending growth ahead of them.

The underlying reason for the long rally is the prospect of the banks operating in a low inflation environment, in a world where asset prices are stable, banks will not

suffer capital shortages from over-rapid lending growth, which would remove the threat of regular rights issues. The lack of a property boom would discourage wild lending and help the clearers to price lending risks accurately. Any suggestion that the British economy was lapsing into its old inflationary ways would therefore end

the stock market's love affair with the banking sector suddenly.

In the shorter term, the only banks that still look good value are National Westminster and Lloyds, which yield up to 20 per cent more than the market average. Elsewhere, investors are speculating against a 17-year trend and that takes courage.



New issues

THE new issue market is at its busiest for almost four years, after a flow of medium-sized flotations in the past month. It is interesting to note, however, how radically the market has changed since it last boomed in 1989.

The latest edition of *Going Public*, a guide produced by Samuel Montagu for companies planning to come to the market, shows that the latest flotation candidates are considerably larger and more stable than their predecessors. In 1989, most placements were on the Unlisted Securities Market. On average, profits were £1.2 million in the year before flotation and newcomers were valued at £10 million.

The decline of the USM has effectively barred most smaller companies. Today, a company placed on the main market will be valued at an average of more than £30 million and have made profits of £2.9 million.

The change in the format of an offer has been even more dramatic. In 1989, most floats were initiated by entrepreneurs who wanted to cash in

some of their investment in their company without losing management control. As a result, an average of only 25 per cent of a company's shares would be marketed.

Today, most flotation candidates are management buyouts, whose venture capital backers are keen to realise most of their investment and raise funds to pay down the debtors' debt. As a result, companies normally offer more than half their capital. This should help to prevent the liquidity shortages and wild price swings that characterised the small company market in the late eighties.

All these changes should be welcomed by investors. While there have naturally been a few duds, recent new issues have been larger and more financially stable than their predecessors.

Many are accustomed to having powerful outside shareholders and are not run as fiefdoms of the chairman and his family. Unfortunately, there is a limited supply of successful management buyouts, and it could soon run dry.

If investors still have an

appetite for new equity after that, they may be fed less attractive offerings.

ECC

WHATEVER the merits of the technology that comes with English China Clays' latest American purchase — the second by Andrew Teare in three years with the group — there is no faulting the chief executive's grasp of corporate strategy. By cutting loose the aggregates and concrete business to float free, at the mercy of any predator prepared to pay the necessary premium, he should keep shareholders sweet, while the rest of the group will be rid of a dull, cyclical performer which management has neither the time nor the patience to run properly.

The purchase of Calgon is more problematical, and it is unclear how ECC can justify the apparent 23 times earnings it is paying. This requires a degree of synergy and cross-selling to ECC's customer base that may be hard to achieve. The rights looks to have every prospect of success, however, even in today's crowded market.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Race day line-up for Miss World

THE search for the City's finest charmer will end tonight when Julia Kurochinka, the 6ft 11in Russian Miss World, decides which candidate will escort her to Ascot tomorrow. The stunning Kurochinka seeks an "equally good-looking" date, and, after an exhausting day poring over photographs and biographies, had narrowed her choice to three eligible bachelors by late last week. They are Charlie Murray, a US government bond broker at Garban Securities, David Yarrow, a stockbroker with NatWest Securities, and David Sommerville, who heads US government bond sales for Sarwa BGK. Kurochinka, 18, will choose the lucky man tonight after telephone interviews with all three. Murray, 34, rides a Harley Davidson and has a pilot's licence, which might be handy for trips to Russia. "I like all women, but particularly foreign ones," he says. Yarrow, 24, has assured competition organisers that he is a "perfect gentleman" combining "cool charm and sophistication". Sommerville has always wanted to "learn about Russia", but with his wedding just two weeks away, his fiancée may not agree.

Printer of note

THE visage of Thomas de la Rue, hailed in Guernsey as the most successful entrepreneur to come from the island, is soon to grace five postage stamps charting the expansion of the De La Rue printing empire to mark the bicentenary of

his birth, on March 24, 1793. Thomas, the seventh child of a poor farmer, was sent to work for a local printer at ten, later seeking the wider opportunities of London in 1816. Having started with straw hats, he quickly detected that producing playing cards was more of a moneyspinner. He started printing stamps when they were invented and finally banknotes. Although the De La Rue company worked with the Guernsey Post Office to produce the five stamps, the printing contract went to the Dutch firm, Enschede. The stamps go on sale on July 27.

Rouble trouble

BORIS Smirnov has caught the capitalist spirit, but Sir Alen Sheppard is hardly jumping for joy. The Russian has produced a small quantity of vodka bearing the Smirnov name, and Grand Metropolitan's head is determined to stop him infringing the company's Smirnov trademark. [Smirnov is] violating our



Kurochinka: date at Ascot

rights," GrandMet bristles in a leaflet to shareholders. "We have therefore instigated several legal actions which are necessary to protect our brands. The Russian market holds enormous potential for us." Smirnov was told by the trademark office last December that he had no protective rights to use the name Smirnov to market his vodka. He appears undeterred, no doubt aware, as is GrandMet, of the opportunities for bootleggers on Russia's black market.

Assault on battery

EVER Ready hopes that sponsoring this year's Derby will give its renamed Energizer batteries a much needed marketing boost. With its previous Gold Seal brand-name, Ever Ready retained just 13 per cent of a market it once dominated. Now, a £9 million advertising campaign is turned on eroding Duracells 57 per cent. The hard part may be convincing distribution chains. Research showed that, of five main centres in Britain, only one knew the name had changed.

That's slow biz

WEEKLY Variety, the theatre industry bible, is to appear fortnightly until the end of August after a management shake-up of its North American operations. Reed Elsevier, the owner, has cut editorial pages, laid off the New York staff and merged operations with *Daily Variety*, which caters for the film industry. Cahn, which runs Reed's US publishing, says that August is slow for sales, adding: "It is not cost-cutting." What ever is? MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Time to stop fighting old inflation dragon

DURING the great depression, John Maynard Keynes served on a committee of outside economists advising the Chancellor. He found himself in a minority — frequently a minority of one — when he rejected the prevailing financial orthodoxy of budget deficit cuts. Patrick Minford, in today's group of Seven Wise Men, is in a similar position.

Keynes was ultimately so successful in changing orthodox views that a totally inappropriate bias towards fiscal expansion prevailed in the UK for three decades after the second world war. By the late 1970s, there was a reaction, and a pre-Keynesian worship of fiscal probity returned and is still with us today. But, in an era that has much in common with the 1930s, it is wrong.

Banks are not going broke on a large scale, but they have neither the capital nor the inclination to lend. Building societies are (mostly) not in such bad shape, but their ability to lend is constrained by the debt problems of their customers, which will take years to work off, even if the embryonic recovery in house prices continues.

We should, therefore, welcome borrowing by those still creditworthy, mainly large corporations with strong cash flow — and the government. At least £15 billion of this year's PSBR results from discretionary fiscal expansion during the recession. If this is maintained indefinitely, the ratio of government debt to GDP will rise without limit. However, this by itself does not justify Kenneth Clarke, the

Chancellor, introducing a big additional fiscal tightening. The debt/GDP ratio is rising rapidly, but it started from a low level and will take many years to reach dangerous levels. The £15 billion expansion should eventually be reversed, but not during a hesitant, credit-constrained recovery.

Nor is the UK's PSBR outrageous by international standards. As a percentage of GDP, the UK's 8 is almost equal to Germany's, and, with Norman Lamont's pre-announced tax hikes larger than those planned in Germany, the German deficit is likely to exceed the UK's next year.

Another reason to feel re-

The debt/GDP ratio will take many years to reach dangerous levels

laxed about the PSBR is that the UK has already put in place the structural labour market reforms needed to ensure non-inflationary growth. It is easier to "hire and fire" in the UK than in any other European country, thanks to the legislation of the Thatcher years. The results, initially hidden by recession, are now emerging in the unfamiliar combination of a stable or even falling unemployment rate (right at the start of the recovery), plus declining wage rises.

The effect of this is near-zero real wages growth which suggests that the inflation surprises will be on the downside

over the next year or so, a bullish factor for gilts that will eventually swamp worries over the PSBR.

Weakness in real incomes and evidence that consumer spending is now slowing is scarcely the environment for fiscal tightening. Instead, short-term interest rates should be nudged down.

The Treasury and the Bank of England give no sign of seeing things this way. They are still fighting inflation, the old enemy of the past two decades. So the recommendations that follow for Mr Clarke's Mansion House speech tomorrow are not predictions. Indeed, he will probably say the opposite.

□ A strong commitment not to raise taxes, nor to cut spending any further than needed to meet current targets, although long-term spending problems such as Serps and abuse of invalidity benefit would be tackled.

□ Announcement of an innovative funding instrument, along the lines of M Balladur's proposal in France — a gilt "convertible" into future privatisation issues. For good measure, to replenish the dwindling stock of assets for sale, he could announce a radical roads privatisation plan.

□ A clear hint that the UK will follow whichever continental country takes the lead in cutting interest rates. That would mean modest cuts in base rates within weeks, if not days, as France takes the initiative, with 5 per cent in sight by autumn.

GILES KEATING
Credit Suisse First Boston

CHANNEL 4

- 6.151 **Love Lucy** (b/w). Vintage American comedy series starring Lucille Ball (70172)
- 6.45 **Spiff and Hercules**. Cartoon series about a squabbling cat and dog (2571882)
- 7.00 **The Black and White Show** presented by Cims Evans and the hostess Roslin (49511)
- 9.00 **You Bet Your Life**. Game show hosted by Garry Cosby (1) (40191)
- 9.30 **Schools** (834917)
- 12.00 **Right to Reply** presented by Shona McDonald. A repeat of Saturday's edition which included a viewer comment about the depiction of employment discrimination in Northern Ireland in Channel 2 documentary *Unfinished Business* (Teletext) (573827)
- 12.30 **Sesame Street**. Entertaining early-learning series. The guest is James Galway (1) (76795)
- 1.30 **Simdramas**. Animated adventures of a pirate prince (1) (7081)
- 2.00 **Film: Canadian Pacific** (1949) starring Randolph Scott, Jane Wyatt and J. Carrol Nash. Conventional western about the building of the Canadian Pacific railroad in face of opposition from a gang of fur trappers. Scott plays the surveyor who gets the line through the Rockies and finds romance on the bank. (Reviewed by Editor) (1) (581058)
- 3.00 **Great Time**. Croatian animation about a piggy bank that comes to life (7663172)
- 3.55 **Garden Club**. Can Mediterranean plants grow in the Lake District? And the rewards of growing rhododendrons. Presented by Rebecca Fox, Roy Lester and Matthew Biggs (1) (Teletext) (3468733)
- 4.30 **Fifteen To One**. Fast-moving knock-out general knowledge quiz presented by William G Stewart (Teletext) (1) (530)
- 5.00 **Kingdom of the Plains: The History of the Pemmungue Gang**. The story of a famous group of Kenya's Rift Valley baboons — 100 strong — who were driven out for attacking tourists (1) (Teletext) (83537)
- 6.00 **My Sister's Ward**. Medical drama set on a hospital ward

general hospital (I) (736)

6.30 The Cosby Show American domestic comedy series (375)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (736/7)

7.50 Comment Jim Beeson argues that civil liberties are being infringed by the no-smoking ban on Network South-East (384/366)

8.00 Brookside Topical soap set in a suburban Merseyside close (Teletext) (I) (874)

8.30 Surgical Spirit Medical comedy starring Nicholas McLaughlin as an acid-tongued surgeon (I) (Teletext) (7849)

9.00 Magic or Medicine? (Teletext) See Choice (6,307)



Housekeeper: Regina Taylor as Lily (10.00pm)

10.00 I'll Fly Away (Teletext) (I) See Choice (360/795)

11.55 Rebellion of the Hanged Episode one of a three-part drama set in 1909 Mexico about Don Gabriel, a drunk who has gambled away a fortune and is having a hard time working as a lowly clerk in a village. Starring Fernando Galarreta. In Spanish with English subtitles (I) (726/64). Ends at 12.01am

1944(917) 2.30 After Harry (765619) 1.00
 Dallas (665417) 4.00 Dyrness (710508)
 5.00 Empty Stairs (655269) 8.30 Cow L
 1.00 C (767257) 6.00 Neighbors
 (767608) 6.00 The Palicans (8334) 7.30
 The Great and Medford (783558) 8.00 East-
 Enders (420415) 8.30 After Harry
 (434288) 9.00 South of the Border
 (706233) 10.00 The Bill (425661) 10.30
 Naked Side (425189) 11.00 The Dream U
 Do Pop (679562) 11.30 Dr. Who: Mind of
 Evil (65569) 12.00 Robert (411257)
 (1952) starring Robert Young (411257)
 1.30-2.00 Video Vasees (467395)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Jack in the Box (411917) 7.00 Ratkin
 II (71569) 9.00 Jack in the Box (67506) 11.00
 Stories Without Words (80135) 1.30 Story
 Time (67506) 2.00 The New York Times
 1.00pm Jack in the Box (23253) 2.00 Stories
 Without Words (6882) 2.30 Story Again! (6866)
 3.00 Baby's First Steps (6712) 3.30
 (Sawed off) 5.00 Katts and Dog (3482) 5.30
 Sweetly by the Seat (3882) 6.00 Vasees (19356)



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Hanson tries to calm fury at rule vote

By Neil Bennett
and Philip Robinson

HANSON is refusing to back down on sweeping powers it is asking shareholders to approve at an extraordinary meeting. The £10.9 billion Anglo-American conglomerate says, however, that it may alter the provisions at a future meeting to calm shareholder protests against them.

Shareholders on both sides of the Atlantic plan to mount a sharp attack on Hanson at the June 25 meeting.

Yve Newbold, the company secretary, said at the weekend that Hanson would review the measures at a future extraordinary meeting. She said: "We will take note of people's



Newbold: disruption fear

■ Hanson shareholders on both sides of the Atlantic are rebelling against measures that would cut their chances of protesting against decisions of the board

opinions and, if the feeling is that these measures are inappropriate, we will change them at that point."

However, Mrs Newbold said that Hanson would not withdraw the proposed changes from next week's EGM and warned shareholders that they will lose the right to a scrip dividend alternative if they defeat the motion.

The new powers will prevent anyone nominating a director to Hanson's board unless they speak for at least 10 per cent of shares, and stop anyone proposing an amendment to a motion at an annual meeting unless backed by 5 per cent. The terms will considerably enhance the powers of Lord Hanson, the chairman, at annual meetings. He will be able to refuse a poll on any item he considers vexatious and to prevent a shareholder speaking more than once on a motion. Shareholders would have to own £1.09 billion worth of Hanson shares at Friday's closing price to nominate a director.

Mrs Newbold said that the motion was merely good

housekeeping in Hanson's articles of association. The changes were intended to prevent annual meetings being hijacked by pressure groups, she said, citing bank meetings disrupted by anti-apartheid demonstrations in the 1980s.

Mrs Newbold added: "People can abuse the procedures of a meeting and particularly can abuse poll procedures."

Hanson is sensitive about the time and money that can be wasted when a few minority shareholders demand a show of hands on an issue and then request a full poll even though certain to be defeated.

The motion at Hanson's EGM needs a 75 per cent majority to succeed. However, the motion includes proposals to introduce a scrip dividend as a substitute for a cash payout.

Mrs Newbold denied that this was an attempt to coerce shareholders into approving the new powers. "I am flattered that anyone thinks I am so Machiavellian," she said.

"This is standard practice for a motion in an EGM."

Objections in the UK are being co-ordinated by the Pensions Investment Research Consultants which will today begin urging City institutions to oppose the changes.

In the US, the fight is being mounted by the United Mine Workers of America, which is due to send its arguments in a letter to US shareholders today. It is understood that at least two major American shareholders will publicly criticise Hanson's plans this week.

The union, in dispute with Hanson's Peabody Holdings, has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission whether the changes breach shareholder rights provisions in the US, where the shares are listed as American depositary receipts.

Almost 400 American unit trusts (mutual funds) and institutional shareholders hold 17 per cent of Hanson's shares, worth a total of \$1.84 billion. None would qualify to nominate a director.

Kenneth Zinn, of the union, said: "This plan amounts to a disenfranchisement of shareholders and the company buried the detail so deep in the small print that it appears they wanted to just slip it by everyone."

Tempus, page 38

Playing at Lord's with a baseball bat

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

REPRESENTATIVES of America's most treasured national sport will arrive in London next week to discuss pulling up the turf at the hallowed cricket grounds of Lord's and the Oval and marking out a baseball diamond.

The plan is part of a five-country visit, designed to develop a true World Series for the sport, lift the consciousness of baseball in Europe, and achieve a five-fold increase in the amount Europeans spend on baseball merchandise such as caps, T-shirts, playing shirts and jackets.

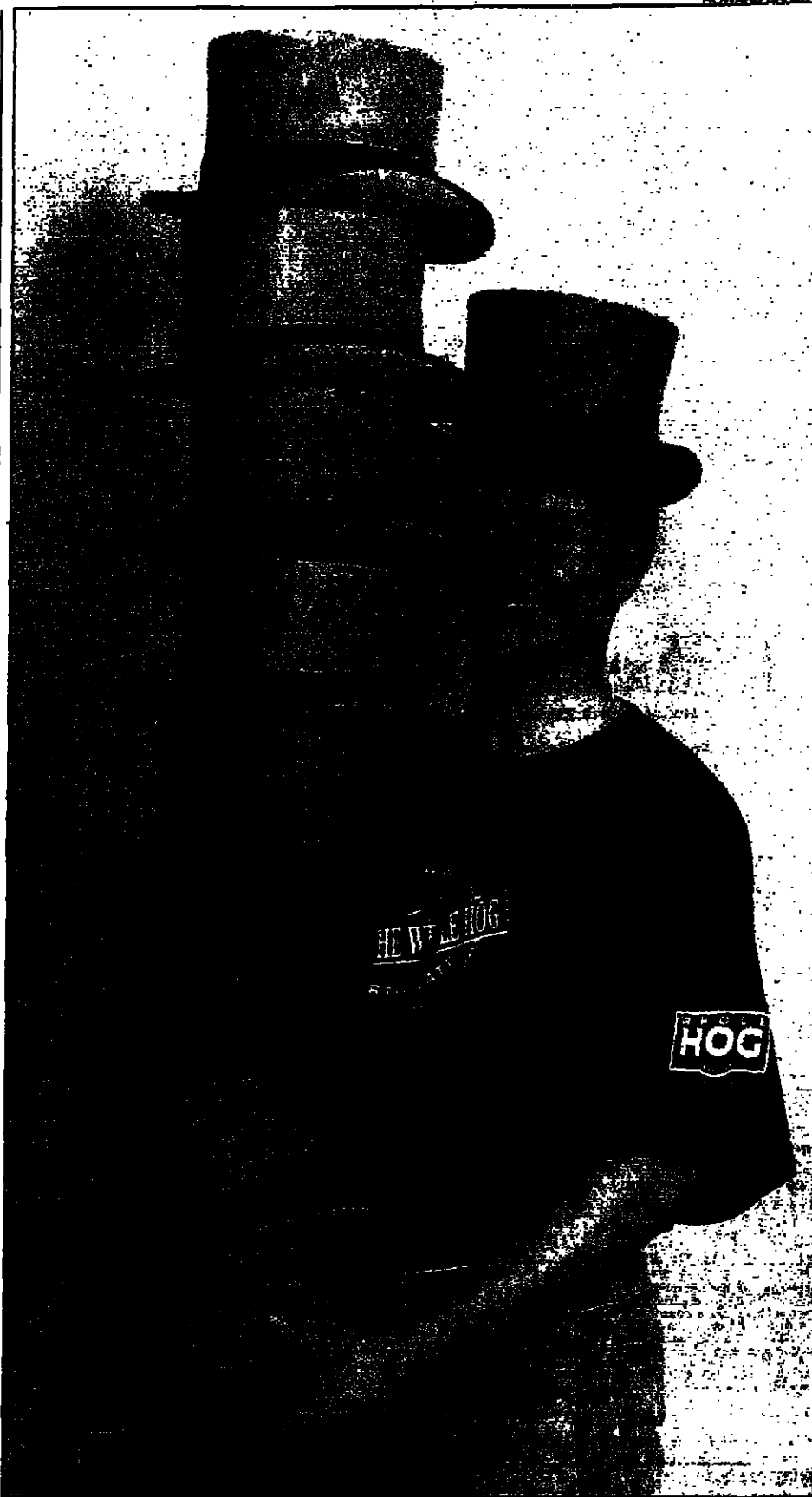
Frank Heffron, president and chief executive of Major League Baseball International Partners, in charge of merchandising and broadcast rights for the 28 leading US clubs, said: "It would mean lifting turf at Lord's and the Oval. I know this sounds a dramatic suggestion, but we

came very, very close to doing it for a visit this fall, and both the Oval and Lord's were willing to do it."

Mr Heffron says a baseball diamond fits neatly within cricket ovals. He added: "If you put the home plate near one part of the ellipse you can have the left and right fields both extend from the diamond to over 330 feet, which is equal to major league ballparks."

The first phase of a major push in Euro-baseball will be a tour of all-star American players, likely to be announced early next month.

Since American Football League staged its first American Bowl play-off in London in 1986, merchandise sales have risen from \$7 million to \$200 million. Baseball's tour will take in Spain, France, the Netherlands and Italy, which has quadrupled its floodlit baseball pitches to 40 in the past decade.



Crowning glory: James Brindley, possibly the last apprentice hatter at Christy

Christy apprentice gets ahead

By Derek Harris

JUST as sales of top hats, static for years, have started to rise marginally, Christy & Co, the headwear maker, has seen its latest — and possibly its last — apprentice finish his indentures to become a journeyman hatter.

Christy, 220 years old and based at Stockport, Cheshire, claims to be the last company in the world to make top hats in the traditional way and is the last company to offer an indenture in the craft.

James Brindley, now 20, has spent three years learning how to create a stiff hat — the trade description of top hats and bowlers — involving 56 different hand processes over 12 weeks for each hat. The best

top hats, costing about £200 in the shops, are made of fur felt.

Christy, a family company for many years but now part of the industrial arm of Cadogan Estates, has 25 journeyman hatters. Mr Brindley hopes to join the half dozen who work on the stiff hats. His favourite is the bowler.

No more apprentices are contemplated for the time being. June Dennis, Christy's first woman marketing manager, said: "We have some retirements coming up in five years or so, but whether we take on more apprentices for that depends largely on how sales of the top-quality stiff hats are shaping up then. There might also be technol-

ogy advances, supplanting the traditional methods."

Christy sells about 500,000 hats a year. Export sales of top hats are strong, especially to the old Commonwealth countries.

Birmingham bids to stage world Expo

By Ross Iteman, Industrial Correspondent

A BID by Birmingham to stage a world Expo in the year 2003 will be unveiled by the business leaders of the city today.

Birmingham is hoping that selection by the Paris-based organisers of Expo 92 in Seville would trigger a flood of additional investment.

The plan is part of a determined effort by the city's business leaders to compensate for job losses in manufacturing by building up employment in the service sector.

Birmingham is being promoted as an exhibition and convention centre. More than 26,000 jobs are already believed to have been created through development of the National Exhibition Centre and the city's new International Convention Centre.

The Expo bid will be unveiled at the House of Commons at an inward investment presentation organised by the West Midlands Development Agency, City 2000, the business professionals grouping, and the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Bob Gilbert,

the chairman of City 2000, said: "Birmingham has the ability and the product to compete with any city in the world — and we have the infrastructure to stage a world event such as Expo without it becoming a drain on national resources."

Talks have already been held with Richard Needham, the trade minister, and the environment department. The plan enjoys cross-party support among Birmingham city councillors.

If the bid is successful, the Birmingham Expo would be the first in Britain since the World Exposition at Crystal Palace, in south London, in 1852.

Success will not be easy. Expos come in varying sizes, but they are supposed to have an educational and cultural function transcending the role of a mere trade fair.

The £14 million British Pavilion at Expo 92 in Seville was designed as a showcase for British ideas and technology intended to modernise perceptions of Britain around the globe.

Sharelink team plans flotation

By Carl Mortished

SHARELINK, the execution-only share dealing service, is soon to offer private investors a chance to share in its profits.

The management team, which bought Sharelink last year from British Telecom and Albert E Sharp, the broker, with backing from Foreign & Colonial and CIL, wants to float the company on the stock market this summer by way of a placing and public offer.

David Jones, who led the buyout and controls 29 per cent of Sharelink, said that it had 300,000 customers and he wanted to correct the view that the company dealt only with small bargains.

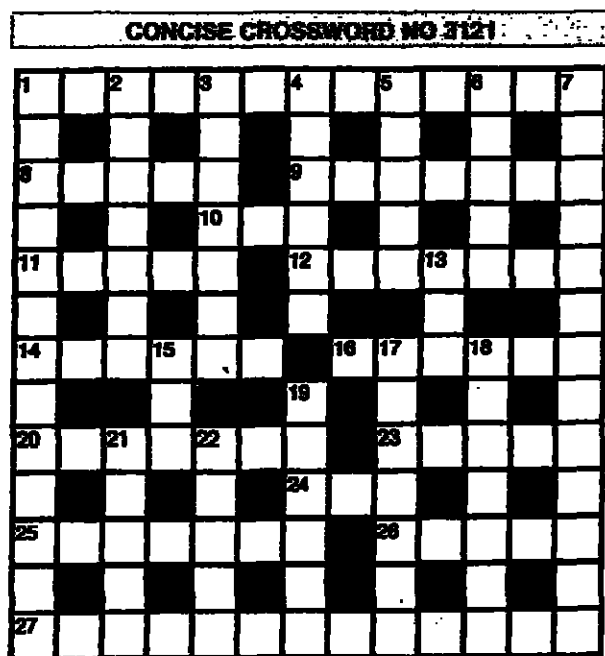
He said: "It's a common mistake. Our average purchase value is over £4,000 and the largest single deal we have done is £3 million."

Profits improved from just over £1 million in 1991 to £3.5 million in 1992 on static in-

come of £14 million. Unlike the previous year, Sharelink did not benefit from privatisation revenue last year.

Mr Jones is keen to emphasise the profitability of his core customer-base, which generated the substantial growth in profits that has elicited comparisons with Direct Line, the telephone insurance retailer. Sharelink intends to seek fresh funds for expansion.

□ The pricing of the government's £5 billion BT share offer will be revealed today. The market is expecting a significant reduction in the incentives on offer to private investors compared with the last BT share sale, 18 months ago. Private investors are expected to be offered a discount on the first instalment plus a choice between discounts on the second and third instalments or bonus shares.



ACROSS
1 Failure to show (3,10)
8 Urban areas (5)
9 Drink powder (7)
10 Fix (3)
11 Last in series (5)
12 Young sheep (3,4)
14 Response (6)
16 Affectedly stylish (6)
20 Picture to oneself (7)
23 Music interval (3)
24 Winged seed tree (3)
25 Race adviser (7)
26 Whole (2,3)
27 Fret impatiently (5,2,3,3)

DOWN
1 Patriotic (1,3)
2 Novelty (7)
3 Book excerpt (7)
4 Paschal period (6)
5 Manorial steward (5)
6 Upper Nile kingdom (5)
7 "Ruling group" (1,3)
13 Hawaiian garland (3)
15 Comic (3)
17 Hemp resin (7)
18 Concited dandy (7)
19 Memorised (6)
21 Highest mark (5)
22 Yucca fibre (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3120
ACROSS: 1 Quick fix 5 Uses 9 Ill bred 10 Odour 11 Dyak 12 Calibre 14 Waddle 16 Brazen 19 Tuscan 21 Toff 24 Mount 25 Scandal 26 Rose 27 Smallpox
DOWN: 1 Quiz 2 Laid 3 Karakul 4 Indict 6 Showbiz 7 Sergeant 8 Goal 13 Two timer 15 Discuss 17 Rat tail 18 Gypsum 20 Ary 22 Fed up 23 Flux



By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent
This position is a variation from the game Short - Seirawan, Rotterdam 1989. White is a pawn up, but the most important feature of the position is his pressure against the black queen's wing. How does he land a killer blow?

Solution on page 37

By Philip Howard
STAUNTON
a. The crest of a bailey
b. A chain-mail vest
c. A standard chessman
RAMBUTAN
a. A Malayan tree
b. A gambling game with eggs
c. A sect of Buddhists

CHINESE WALL
a. An insurmountable barrier
b. An end game in Mah Jong
c. A sliding screen
KUKI
a. The New Zealand pigeon
b. A beautiful woman
c. A slave

Answers on page 37

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times Concise Crosswords - Books 1 & 2 £5.25 each, Books 3 & 4 £4.25 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords - Book 1 £4.99, Book 2 £5.99, Concise Book 1 £5.99. The Times Crosswords - Books 1, 7, 14, 15 & 16 £4.25 each; Books 2 to 13 (excl. 7) £4.74 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords - Books 1 to 10 £4.74 each except Books 5, 9 and 11 £4.25 each. Concise Books 1 & 2 £4.25 each. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to AKNOW Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs).

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Bupa looks at ways to raise cash

By Carl Mortished

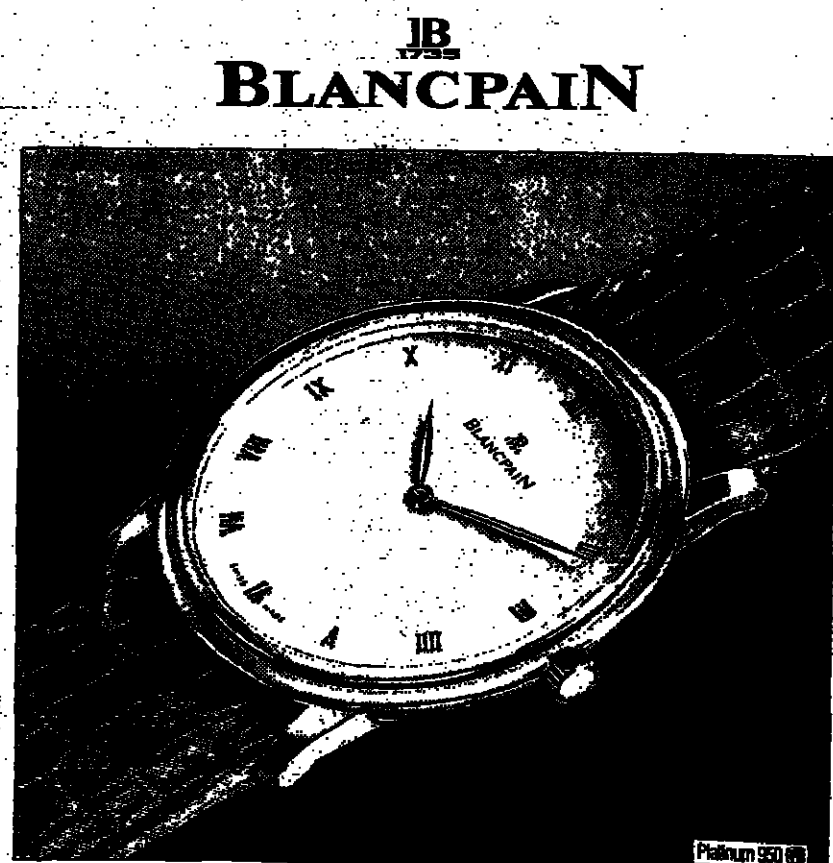
BUPA, the private medical insurance group, said yesterday that the company was looking at a number of options to raise new capital for expansion, including the stock market, but no decision has yet been taken about a flotation.

Bupa raised £100 million earlier this year in a eurobond issue and at the time said the funds were sufficient for its use in the short term.

A spokesman for the company said yesterday that Bupa could return to the capital markets for finance, or pursue other options.

Bupa's share of the private medical insurance market in the UK has slipped from 75 per cent or more to 50 per cent, but David Jacobs, the chief executive, has boosted the health care group's fortunes since he joined in 1991, raising profits from £1 million to £36 million last year.

Floating Bupa on the stock market would entail some disadvantages, said the spokesman. The group is structured as a non-profit-making company limited by guarantee and pays no tax on its underwriting profits. A launch on the stock market would require it to pay dividends and corporation tax like other companies.



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